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Community Pride Reporter, 03/1997

Community Pride Reporter

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Community Pride Reporter

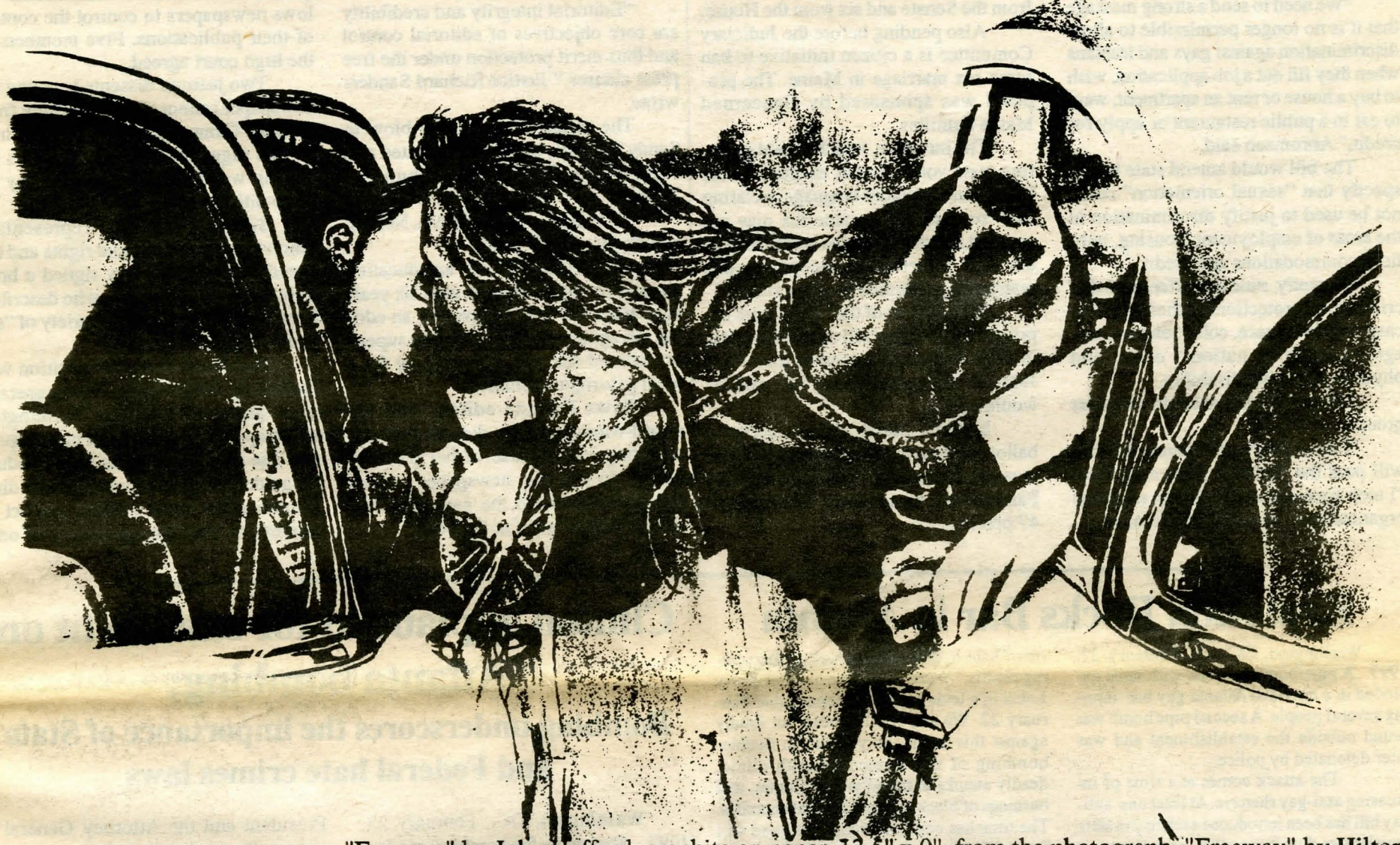
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VOL. 4, Number 8

March 1997

Artists For AIDS Awareness



"Freeway" by John Hafford, graphite on paper, 13.5" x 9", from the photograph, "Freeway" by Hilton

by Debra Madore

Aroostook County is located in northern Maine and often referred to simply as "The County". Aroostook County is the largest county east of the Mississippi, a mostly wilderness area larger than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. However, our population base is approximately 70,000, with an average of 13 people per square mile. It is a beautiful area full of lakes, forests, wildlife and farmland.

Because of the real (and perceived) isolation and rural nature of the area, many people living here don't believe that HIV is an important issue for them. Isolation has become a state of mind as well as a geographical fact. Educating people living here about HIV/AIDS is especially challenging because of this isolationism. The particular demographics make communication about sensitive issues especially difficult to address, creating an atmosphere conducive to fear, prejudice and discrimination.

A group of Aroostook County citizens formed in 1995 to address the very important issues. Calling themselves the Artists For AIDS awareness (AFAA) they are dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Their goal is to nurture a more compassionate, supportive, and understanding community.

This group's work centers mainly on their annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life" fund-raising event. All proceeds are used for HIV/AIDS prevention education projects in The County. Prevention efforts remain the best means of stopping the spread of HIV. Furthermore, effective prevention programs raise awareness and can positively impact the care and treatment of those already infected and affected by HIV. No single prevention technique can resolve the many-layered challenge of HIV. However, each effort builds on individual lessons learned to better address the complex epidemic.

Artists For AIDS awareness has

supported local projects including: coordinating World AIDS Day activities including "Day Without Art", Aroostook Teen Conference, Northern Lambda Nord - Health 1st HIV Prevention Phoneline Project, financial support for services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and a modest granting program titled "HIV Prevention Education Using the Arts". This program promotes HIV/AIDS prevention education activities using the arts in Aroostook non-profit youth programs and public schools. AFAA believes that using the arts to promote HIV prevention education in local youth projects will benefit our communities in a number of ways. First, youths will have the opportunity to increase their skills for safer-sex decisions, which necessarily include postponement. Second, youth will learn about HIV/AIDS and the ways that they can reduce their risk of infection. Third, it is our hope that, through this project, fear and discrimination towards those infected and

affected by HIV/AIDS will be reduced, if not eliminated. Finally, arts programs in schools are ready targets for reduced funding. We believe the arts a necessary and vital part of youth education programs. In the end, we hope to encourage and support an effective and courageous response to the HIV/AIDS crisis by the Aroostook community.

AFAA is able to offer financial support for these kinds of projects through community support of fundraising efforts including the annual benefit. The 3rd Annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life" will be held on Saturday March 22 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center. The evening includes "mocktails" by the pool, a buffet dinner, live entertainment, and an auction of original works of art by local artists, some of whom have shown internationally.

We are especially proud to have one particular piece. This is a quilt that See AFAA, page 12

Marriage Bill LD1017 Hearing

Wednesday March 12 at 1:30 pm Augusta Civic Center. Held before the Judiciary Committee. Everyone is encouraged to attend and send cards and letters to their legislators

LD1116 Anti-discrimination Bill Hearing

Tuesday April 8. Held before the Judiciary Committee at the Augusta Civic Center Auditorium 1:30pm. All are encouraged to attend and call their legislators and tell them to vote for this bill.

Lobbying Day

Tuesday April 8. MLGPA is sponsoring a lobbying day FMI call Rich Couch at 207-622-1929 or MLGPA at 800-556-5472

"The time has come" for gay Rights in Maine

by Francis X. Quinn

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Expressing optimism over the prospects for passage of a bill to extend legal protections against discrimination to homosexuals, a Portland lawmaker sponsoring the legislation said Friday "the time has come" for gay rights in Maine.

"Frankly, I wish passage of this bill were not necessary but, sadly, that is not the case," Republican Sen. Joel Abromson said in a prepared statement.

"We need to send a strong message that it is no longer permissible to allow discrimination against gays and lesbians when they fill out a job application, wish to buy a house or rent an apartment, want to eat in a public restaurant or apply for credit," Abromson said.

The bill would amend state law to specify that "sexual orientation" could not be used to justify discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

Currently, state law offers anti-discrimination protections in those areas in cases involving race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin and physical or mental disability.

Abromson's bill exempts religious groups.

"I have every confidence this bill will pass the Senate," Abromson said. "I took special care to exempt religious organizations from this proposal to re-

move those concerns from this debate. My proposal has support from Governor King and I am hopeful that we can marshal enough votes in the House for passage as well."

Among the co-sponsors of the legislation are the chairmen of the Judiciary Committee that will review it, Sen. Susan Longley, D-Liberty, and Rep. Richard Thompson, D-Naples.

Co-sponsors include five Democrats and five Republicans, with four from the Senate and six from the House.

Also pending before the Judiciary Committee is a citizen initiative to ban same-sex marriage in Maine. The proposal was sponsored by Concerned Maine Families.

The initiative, which would go before state voters unless enacted by the Legislature, includes language declaring that "persons of the same sex may not contract marriage." It also would require the state to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Both houses of the Legislature approved a gay-rights bill for the first time in 1993, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan. King has said he would sign it.

In 1995, Maine voters rejected a ballot question to restrict gay rights. The measure initiated by Concerned Maine Families was turned back, 53 percent to 47 percent.

Political Activism by reporters prohibited

by Hunter T. George

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — A newspaper may prohibit political activism by its reporters to protect its credibility, the state Supreme Court ruled Thursday in the case of a journalist who was reassigned after campaigning for a gay-rights measure.

The court held that a state law protecting employees from discrimination on the basis of their political activities does not apply to newspapers.

"Editorial integrity and credibility are core objectives of editorial control and thus merit protection under the free press clauses," Justice Richard Sanders wrote.

The ruling dealt another blow to Sandy Nelson's bid to be reinstated as a reporter for The News Tribune of Tacoma.

"This is not over," said Ms. Nelson, a journalist for 17 years.

Ms. Nelson, 40, was an education reporter for the newspaper until six years ago, when she was assigned to an editing job against her will after her superiors learned she was campaigning for a local gay-rights initiative.

News Tribune editors said the award-winning writer did not lose her reporting job because of her political beliefs. In fact, the newspaper's editorial board endorsed the gay-rights initiative, which failed at the polls.

But editors feared the state's third-largest newspaper would lose credibility with its readers if a reporter crossed the line between newsgathering and news making.

Ms. Nelson sued McClatchy Newspapers Inc., which owns The News Tribune, arguing that the reassignment violated the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

A judge dismissed the claim on grounds that the First Amendment allows newspapers to control the content of their publications. Five members of the high court agreed.

Two justices dissented, saying the newspaper cannot claim immunity from the Fair Campaign Practices Act since no one suggested that Ms. Nelson's reporting was influenced in any way by her political views.

Sixty-eight groups representing unions, gay rights, animal rights and the Freedom Socialist Party signed a brief in support of Ms. Nelson, who describes herself as a supporter of a variety of "socialist feminist" causes.

The News Tribune's position was backed by Allied Daily Newspapers, a trade group representing Washington newspapers. The group said most papers and The Associated Press follow industry guidelines that recommend avoiding situations that could cause a conflict of interest, or even the appearance of one.

Explosion Rocks Bar in Atlanta

Washington, DC., On February 22, 1997. A pipe bomb covered with nails exploded in a crowded Atlanta gay bar injuring several people. A second pipe bomb was found outside the establishment and was later detonated by police.

The attack comes at a time of increasing anti-gay rhetoric. At least one anti-gay bill has been introduced each day in state legislatures thus far in 1997, according to a report recently released by NGLTF.

"As the extremist Right steps up its verbal and legislative assault, violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is on the rise," said Kerry Lobel executive director of NGLTF. "What begins as rhetoric, can often have tragic consequences."

Atlanta police said this bombing, the fourth to strike the city in seven months, has similarities to a January double-bombing at an Atlanta abortion clinic and the deadly July attack at the Olympic Games. All are thus far unsolved.

"We encourage FBI and local law enforcement officials to do everything in their power to solve these bombings," Lobel continued. "They are acts of cowardice, that strike out against innocent bystanders."

NGLTF has written to President Clinton, Attorney General Reno and FBI Director Freeh, to alert them of the incident and call for their action.

"My purpose in writing you, Mr. President, is to echo concerns we have voiced to you earlier about the rising rheto-

ric of hate in this country and its devastating results," wrote executive director Kerry Lobel in a letter to the President dated February 22. We ask you to speak out loudly against this crime, as you did in double-bombing of the women's health clinic, deadly attacks at the Olympic Games, and burnings of black and multi-racial churches. The time has come for people of good will from all across America to speak out against hate in our country."

In another letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, NGLTF's Lobel asked the Department of Justice to closely monitor the situation, and, if necessary, lend assistance to local law enforcement authorities "to ensure the collection of all needed information to determine whether or not this was a hate crime."

Georgia civil rights and hate crimes laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-gender sodomy law. According to executive director Lobel, "Today we stand with Georgians who are working every day to fight against discrimination and for their civil rights. Like them, we will not rest until this bomber is brought to justice."

NGLTF urges anyone with information to call FBI and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB.

This message was issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Field Department.

Clinton applauded for statement on Atlanta bombing; Bombing underscores the importance of State and Federal hate crimes laws

Washington, DC., February 25, 1997... Shaken by the bombing of a lesbian bar in Atlanta last Friday, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people nationwide were eager for Presidential response. Last night, in a speech before the Democratic Business Council, the President condemned the bombing of the nightclub as wrong. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) wrote the President immediately after the incident voicing its concern over the extreme prevalence of anti-gay hate crimes and requesting the President speak out against this latest terrorist incident in Atlanta.

The following is an excerpt from the President's speech: I think we did the right thing to try to combat in a very aggressive way these church burnings. And I might say, the recent bombing of the gay nightclub in Atlanta reminds us that this work is not over. That was wrong, and we have to stand against those things. We have to go forward together. We don't have anybody to waste.

Today Attorney General Janet Reno also issued a statement condemning the bombing. The Attorney General stated the FBI and ATF are "pursuing all motives, including the possibility that the crime was motivated by the sexual orientation of the patrons at the club."

"The Task Force applauds the

President and the Attorney General's statements condemning the bombing of the Otherside Lounge, a bar patronized by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders," stated NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel. "Let this violent and despicable act serve as a reminder that more leadership and action is needed in ensuring the safety and equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans," added Lobel.

Friday's bombing highlights the lack of civil rights laws in Georgia for its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens. According to NGLTF, Georgia's civil rights and hate crimes laws do not include sexual orientation. The state also has a same-gender sodomy law. "This bombing underscores the vital importance of hate crime laws in every state, including Georgia, and the absolute necessity that crimes based on sexual orientation be included in those laws," stated Lobel. According to NGLTF 19 states and the District of Columbia have hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation, while 19 states have hate crime laws that do not include sexual orientation. Georgia is one of 12 states with no hate crimes law.

NGLTF urges anyone with information about the Atlanta bombings to call FBI and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB.

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Partisans Eye Effect of Same-Sex marriage ban on Gay Rights

by Francis X. Quinn

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Could the Maine referendum drive to ban same-sex marriage help promote passage of a state gay rights bill?

With both measures pending before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, it is too early to say. But some gay rights advocates believe the presence of the marriage ban on the legislative agenda may work to their advantage.

"I suppose on the one hand, it could," said Sen. Joel Abromson, R-Portland, the chief sponsor of the bill to add sexual orientation to the list of protected categories in Maine's human rights law.

Abromson reasons that for lawmakers weighing the issue of gay marriage, "there may be some who say, well, that's going too far, but I'm willing to support the human rights bill."

"On the other hand," Abromson adds, "I hope it doesn't confuse people, because from that point of view it could hurt."

Some proponents of the gay rights measure say it was the latter concern that motivated discussion about letting the Legislature take up the citizen initiative immediately without referring it to committee. Their thinking assumed that the same-sex marriage ban will be enacted one way or the other — either by lawmakers themselves or by state voters at referendum.

After all, Congress and President Clinton approved a federal Defense of Marriage Act last fall and 17 states have banned gay marriages.

Allowing Maine lawmakers to approve a same-sex marriage ban right

away, according to some pro-gay rights partisans, might set up debate on Abromson's anti-discrimination measure in a less emotionally charged atmosphere.

In the end, however, the initiative to ban same-sex marriage was routinely referred to committee. Abromson says he only hopes that the panel will take up the two matters separately.

Vice Chairman Lawrence Lockman of Concerned Maine Families, the organization that has spearheaded the proposed ban on same-sex marriage, says it is a "good question" whether the push for gay rights will benefit from the debate over the citizen initiative.

The issue of same-sex marriage may make gay rights "look moderate by comparison" to some lawmakers, said Lockman. But, he adds, "the way we look at it, ... they are at root the very same issues because they are based on the same legal premise. ... Do gays and lesbians qualify as a group that gets protected group status?"

Lockman said gay rights opponents hope to make a successful stand in the House of Representatives, which Abromson suggests will be the key battleground. In the event that the measure is enacted, Lockman said it was likely the opponents would mount a referendum challenge known as a people's veto.

Abromson's bill would cover employment, housing, public accommodations and credit, exempting religious organizations.

Co-sponsors include the chairmen of the Judiciary Committee that will review it.

Stop LD 1017: The Marriage and Family Protection bill!

If passed, this bill will prohibit same-gender couples from receiving the same legal protections accorded heterosexual couples through one of the most widely recognized civil contracts: marriage.

Key Points: Without the legal right to a civil marriage, same-gender couples do not have family health coverage, medical and bereavement leave, child custody, tax benefits and pension plans.

LD 1017 is Unfair!

This bill will not require any religion to perform or recognize these marriages.

LD 1017 is Unnecessary!

The U.S. Supreme court declared marriage a fundamental right under the constitution!

LD 1017 is Unconstitutional!

Here's how you can help:

Contact your legislator and tell her or him to vote NO on LD 1017.

If your legislator agrees with you, ask her or him to testify when this bill is heard in a public hearing.

Long-time couples (15+ years) are needed to speak at a public hearing. It's rewarding and you'll get plenty of moral support! If interested, contact MLGPA at 1-800-55-MLGPA or 761-3732.

More to come!

MLGPA is tracking this legislative session's important bills that affect our lives: An Act to Prevent Discrimination based on sexual orientation, An Act to Provide Confidentiality of Health Care Information and an Act regarding Collection of Bias Motivation Data Through Uniform Crime Reporting.

Make that call! Leave a message for your...

...State Senator at: 1-800-423-6900 or 1-207-287-1540

...State Representative at: 1-800-423-2900 or 1-207-287-1400

The "Marriage and Family Protection Bill" denies gay and lesbian couples the right to equal benefits through civil marriage. Stop LD 1017!

MLGPA P.O. Box 232 Hallowell, ME 04347 AN ACT TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION MLGPA Lobbies for Equal Protection

This bill will finally make it illegal to discriminate against people in Maine based solely on their sexual orientation. It says that you cannot be fired from a job, evicted from an apartment, denied a loan, or turned away from a restaurant or hotel if you are, or someone just thinks you are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. This bill will provide the same protections that already exist on the basis of age, sex, race, marital status, disability, religion and national origin under the Maine Human Rights Act. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island have already outlawed this kind of discrimination.

Maine still has discrimination!

In a recent Maine survey, ninety-four percent of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals responding have been victims of some form of discrimination. Hate-crime statistics prove that the number of anti-gay beatings and harassment is rising throughout the state. Some victims are afraid to press charges, when it means they could be fired or evicted just for coming forward. Special remedies, not special rights

Some people think it's their right to discriminate against lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Remember — this kind of prejudice is still legal in the State of Maine. All across this country the religious right is battling to impose its fundamentalist doctrine on lawmakers and citizens alike. These same extremists have opposed almost every civil rights effort in the past. Now they want us all to believe that these basic human rights we seek are special.

Religious freedom will be maintained

This bill specifically says that all religious organizations are guaranteed the right to practice their faith according to their beliefs.

What you can do to help:

write your legislator, express your concern for equal treatment for everyone!

Phone your legislator (for representatives call 1-800-423-2900, for senators call 1-800-423-6900)

volunteer your time (we have a constituent lobby day and a public hearing on the bill coming soon)

call MLGPA, leave your name, address, and phone number, and we'll call you soon about when, where, and how we need your time and effort.

MLGPA..... 1-800-556-5472 or 761-3732 in Portland

28 States ban Gay Marriages

Here's a list of the 28 states that have laws banning same-sex marriages, including the 17 that have acted in the past year. The Hawaii law has been voided by a court.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Source: The Mississippi Family Council

Freedom to Marry Roundtable

by Angel Castro

The Freedom to Marry Roundtable is a body of both individuals and organizations such as GLAD, Maine Civil Liberties Union, Maine Legal, Maine Speakout Project and The Matlovich Society. Their goal is to educate and inform people regarding issues concerning same gender marriage.

Their hope is that members of the community be capable of speaking effectively and supportively on the subject of same gender marriage. One of the speakers, Sue Hyde, Field Organizer for the National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) asked a question that surprisingly enough many people do not have a clear answer to, the question was "What is marriage?" The answer is; Marriage is a basic human right. Marriage is an individual, personal, choice. And so it should be for all Americans.

The efforts of the Roundtable are not intended to force any religion to ei-

ther recognize or perform same-gender marriage ceremonies but to remind all people that there is and should be separation of Church and State, not just in theory but also in practice. We, as Americans, have basic constitutional rights and as a society we must respect and protect those rights for everyone. This is not an issue of "special rights" but rather one of "basic rights".

Members of the community must ban together to insure and defend those precious rights. Speak with your families and friends and more importantly write a letter to your Congressmen and to our Governor Angus King and let him know that "No one can justify Equal Rights on a limited basis."

The Freedom to Marry Roundtable met March 1st at the YWCA and continue to meet on a regular basis. FMI call Maine Speakout Project (207) 879-0480

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LHP/SM Offers Free Cancer Screening Clinic

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Portland Public Health, will offer a Cancer Screening Clinic for Lesbians on Saturday, March 15 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The screening includes a pap, pelvic, and breast exam.

Services are offered free of charge; donations large and small enable LHP/SM to continue offering services. If you would like to send a donation to help sponsor this clinic, please make your check payable to LHP/SM and mail to PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04101.

To set up an appointment, and to see if you qualify for a free mammogram, call LHP/SM at (207)657-5864.

'Don't ask Don't tell' Doesn't work

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) — More members of the military are being kicked out for homosexuality than when President Clinton entered office pledging to stop discrimination against gays in uniform, according to Pentagon figures released Wednesday.

The Pentagon said it couldn't explain the increase, but a legal aid group that is an advocate for gay rights said it shows commanders are conducting witch hunts and investigating women who spurn men's sexual advances.

Asked about the figures during a photo session, Defense Secretary William Cohen said he was not familiar with the details but said it was his understanding that "gyrations" occur from year to year in the numbers. The current numbers do not "warrant a change in policy," he said.

"I don't think you can call it a dismal failure," Cohen said of the Pentagon's approach.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which provides legal aid to troops accused of homosexuality, published Defense Department figures that show the number of service members discharged for homosexuality jumped to 850 in 1996 from 722 in 1995. The number was 682 in 1993, Clinton's first year

in office.

That figure represents an 18 percent increase over the previous year and a 42 percent increase from 1994, the year in which the policy, designed to help end discrimination against gays in the military, was put into effect. Of that, 29 percent of those discharged for homosexuality in the last fiscal year were women, even though women make up only 13 percent of active-duty service members.

Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the "don't ask, don't tell" policy adopted in the first Clinton administration was intended "to make life more tolerable and to be more inclusive than exclusive."

"If the allegations in the study are in fact correct, that's an aberration that must be corrected," Shalikashvili said during a question-and-answer session at American University.

Michelle Benecke, a retired Army captain who is a co-director of the legal aid group, told a news conference the military is routinely violating its own policy by investigating suspicions or rumors of homosexuality without credible evidence.

She said women, both lesbians and heterosexuals, are accused of being gay when they reject sexual advances or re-

port sexual abuse. She said some women report giving in to sexual demands in order to avoid being rumored to be a lesbian.

"The result is a command climate where 'anything goes' in the pursuit of suspected gay personnel," she said.

After resistance from the Pentagon and the Congress to his original promise of a blanket moratorium on anti-gay discrimination in the military, Clinton struck an awkward "don't ask, don't tell" compromise in 1994.

The policy is supposed to allow homosexuals to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private, and punish those who engage in homosexual acts or take actions that call attention to their orientation. Commanders are not to ask about sexual orientation or launch investigations without credible evidence.

Benecke said her organization, through its contact with service members fighting dismissals, had recorded hundreds of instances of "don't ask, don't tell" violations. Some are deliberate abuses, but many are the result of commanders not having been adequately trained in executing the policy, Benecke said.

She said there is a "wink-and-smile attitude" among senior commanders toward witch hunts.

Maj. Monica Aloisio, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the Defense Department was aware of the assertions that it has not faithfully followed its policy on gays.

"We will review the report carefully and if there is credible and specific information presented in this regard, we will look into the allegations and take appropriate action," she said.

The Pentagon promised to look into similar allegations made by the same group last year, but it never issued a public report of findings. Aloisio, the spokeswoman, said the Pentagon could not explain the increase in gays discharged from the service.

"We just don't know," she said.

Appearing at the news conference was Nicole Galvan, who said she was forced out of West Point last year after her commander questioned her about her sexual orientation. After she refused to answer, she was forced to surrender a personal diary which she had started after her mother died two years earlier. She said her computer e-mail files also were confiscated.

"I felt violated and humiliated," Galvan, 22, told reporters. "I felt alone, confused, afraid."

She has asked the Army's inspector general to investigate her case.

Bishop under fire for offering services

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — The spiritual leader of Rochester's Roman Catholics says he can uphold the church's teachings on homosexuality while offering gays and lesbians a chance to participate in a special service.

Bishop Matthew Clark, head of the 400,000-member Diocese of Rochester, plans to offer a Mass for gay and lesbian Catholics on March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported today.

The Mass has already generated phone calls and letters, diocesan officials said.

"I really don't think it's a very good idea," said Dee Dries, a member of the local chapter of Catholics United for the Faith. "The bishop is disloyal to the Holy Father in promoting this. In many places in the Bible homosexuality is called an abomination."

Clark told the newspaper that he hopes to make gays and lesbians feel

welcome in the church, and said Catholics should not equate offering Mass for homosexuals with endorsing homosexuality.

"That puzzles me in light of the fact that I have gone to the Monroe County Jail every Christmas morning for 18 years and no one says to me, 'by gathering those people, you are blessing arson and grand theft and murder and rape,'" Clark said. "We have gathered all kinds of people all through the years

without making any dreadful judgments."

The Mass for gays and lesbians will be a relatively rare one. Only a handful of the 150 dioceses in the United States have held such liturgies, and only about 30 have any form of outreach ministry for gays and lesbians, church officials said.

While the church recognizes homosexuality as an orientation, it describes homosexual activity as a sin.

Aid Sought for Gay Holocaust Victims

by Alexander G. Higgins

Geneva (AP) — A homosexual delegation met with Swiss officials Thursday to urge that gays receive a fair share of a new \$71 million humanitarian fund for needy Holocaust victims.

Homosexuals were among those groups — including Jews, gypsies, Slavs and communists — targeted by the Nazis for concentration camps and extermination.

The meeting in the Swiss capital of Bern came a day after the Swiss government formally founded the fund. The gay organization Pink Cross argued that money should aid any Holocaust victim, regardless of race or religion, or political or sexual orientation.

"We had the feeling that we were met with open ears," said Pink Cross spokesman Rolf Gerber. He said the meeting with the government's task force on Holocaust victims was "very open and productive."

Pink Cross will work to put needy homosexual Holocaust victims in touch with the fund's administrators, Gerber said. Meanwhile, government officials said it would take several weeks to ready the account so that the first payments can be made.

Even as the humanitarian fund is being set up, researchers are uncovering more details both on those who died in the war and the perpetrators — and their links to neutral Switzerland.

Expert investigators heard this week that there is evidence that a top official of a major German bank dealt extensively on the black market, from a base in a posh Zurich hotel, in jewels, bank notes and gold coins looted by the Nazis.

And a 146-page report prepared by Swiss historians for investigators documents cases of relatives running into a stonewall in trying to claim their inheritance from assets in Switzerland.

Under heavy international pressure, Switzerland is undertaking a thorough review of its wartime role to see whether compensation should be paid to Holocaust victims or their heirs for any Swiss wrongs. Jewish organizations claim that Swiss banks hold up to \$7 billion in assets and interest owed Holocaust victims.

So far only the largest Swiss banks have donated money to the fund, but insurance companies and other firms as well as the Swiss government may give later.

Minorities increasingly feel the effects of AIDS

Milwaukee (AP) Women, minorities and children increasingly are feeling the effect of the AIDS epidemic, a report on Milwaukee-area HIV cases shows.

Minorities accounted for 75 percent of newly-reported cases of HIV infection in the city of Milwaukee in 1995.

New cases among women have doubled in the past five years, according to the report by community and government health agencies. In the past, gay white men have borne the brunt of the epidemic.

The trends show the need to move beyond safe-sex campaigns aimed at gay men and needle exchange programs for drug users and to offer additional prevention programs to reach women of child-bearing age and youths, said City Health Commissioner Paul Nannis.

The programs might include such strategies as training women to be AIDS prevention experts in their neighborhoods and within special risk groups such as female partners of drug users, he said.

"There's nothing as effective as a neighbor talking to a neighbor" to drive home a health message, Nannis said.

The report was prepared by the HIV Planning Council and the Ryan White HIV Services Consortium, which oversees use of federal Ryan White Care Act money. The groups include representatives of community and AIDS service groups.

Two years ago, city officials called a meeting of some of the groups to develop a strategic plan for dealing with AIDS on the local level. The intent was to build on a prevention plan by the Milwaukee Indian Health Board in 1993 and a care and treatment plan by the consortium in 1991.

It was estimated in 1991 that 12,600 people in the Milwaukee area would be infected with HIV by 1995, but only 5,300 were.

Pat McManus, director of the Black Health Coalition, which wrote the prevention part of the report, said it affirmed trends that local health officials knew were happening on a national scale, especially the boom in cases among African-Americans.

Janice Hand, program director of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and chairwoman of the Ryan White consortium, agreed.

"The second wave is now much more evident to us. Women and people of color are a bigger concern," she said.

Sexual Harrassment can be same sex

by Robin Estrin

BOSTON (AP) — Lewd gestures, raunchy comments, requests for sexual favors.

If they happen in the workplace, they're grounds for a sexual harassment lawsuit — even if both the aggressor and the victim are heterosexual men, Massachusetts' highest court ruled Tuesday.

The issue of same-sex harassment has confronted courts around the nation, with varying results.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled Tuesday that three former male employees of a Massachusetts lumber yard were entitled to compensation after being sexually harassed by two male supervisors.

Leonid Melnychenko, James Quill and Stephen LaRoche worked at a West Springfield branch of the national chain 84 Lumber Co. between 1989 and 1990. All three eventually quit.

The men claimed that their supervisors, Richard Raab and Eliasel Roque, subjected them to a constant stream of verbal and physical abuse. They said Raab grabbed their genitals, fondled

their buttocks, exposed himself to them and requested sexual favors.

Raab and Roque were fired after the allegations were raised.

The employees sued the company, and Hampden County Judge Daniel Ford awarded the men a total of about \$144,000 in June 1993 on the grounds of sexual harassment. Lawyers for the men said the total figure will nearly triple including interest and attorneys fees following the SJC's decision.

Ford described Raab's conduct as "demented, revolting and positively outrageous."

The lumber company, which is based just south of Pittsburgh, appealed to the SJC, arguing the conduct could not be sexual harassment because all the men involved were heterosexual.

If the victims were women, it would have been sexual harassment; if the victims were gay, it might have been sexual harassment as well, the lawyers said.

"We felt that the conduct no matter how gross it is if it's not based upon

the person's sex, it's not actionable," said 84 Lumber attorney Robert Bosilovic.

The SJC, however, agreed with the employees, saying sexual harassment can apply to situations where both the harasser and the harassed are the same gender and the same sexual orientation.

"Nowhere is discrimination because of a victim's sex made an essential element of a sexual harassment claim in Massachusetts," Chief Justice Herbert Wilkins wrote.

Massachusetts law defines sexual harassment as "sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature."

Justices Francis O'Connor and Neil Lynch dissented, saying the plaintiffs did not prove that they were sexually harassed because of their gender.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled on the matter, although several attorneys interviewed said they feel it's only a matter of time before it does.

Federal courts have come to different conclusions. In Chicago last year, for example, a federal judge said same-

gender sexual harassment is not a basis for court action under civil rights law.

Charlie Ryan, one of the lawyers for the former employees, hailed the Massachusetts decision.

Ryan said he and others feared that the lumber company's reasoning would require plaintiffs and defendants to discuss their sexual orientation in court.

"That really would be a devastating exercise," he said. "I don't think there's anything more personal or more intimate than one's sexual orientation."

Moreover, observers said, sexual orientation shouldn't matter.

"I think that the progress of our civilization is to recognize that exploitation is exploitation regardless of the sex of the people or the sexual orientation," said Paul Merry, a Boston attorney who specializes in employment discrimination cases.

Mary Bonauto, a lawyer for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said the SJC's decision will avoid a "wild goose chase" into proving whether a victim of harassment or a harasser is gay.

Three-Drug combination effective against AIDS

by Paul Recer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deaths and infections were reduced by half among AIDS patients taking a three-drug combination that includes a new protease inhibitor drug, researchers say.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced Monday that a national test of drug combinations found that AIDS patients taking zidovudine, lamivudine and indinavir had half the cancers, infections and deaths of patients who were taking a two-drug combination.

Dr. Scott Hammer of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital at Harvard Medical School in Boston, national coordinator of the study, said all patients in the study are now being given the opportunity to switch to the three-drug combination or to other experimental regimens.

"We have moved very quickly on this," he said.

Hammer said that by last Friday letters had gone out to all of the centers

and patients in the drug trials, notifying them of the findings and offering patients the chance to select a new drug combination.

He emphasized, however, that no patients should change their medication routine until they have consulted with their doctors.

Zidovudine is also known as AZT and lamivudine is known as 3TC. They are in a class of drugs known as reverse transcriptase inhibitors. The third drug, indinavir, is one of a new class of compounds called protease inhibitors. The two classes of drugs attack HIV, the AIDS virus, in different ways.

The drug trials, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, "confirm the importance of including protease inhibitors in treatment strategies for patients with advanced HIV disease."

"Significantly, the current study provides additional evidence that combination approaches using protease in-

hibitors can reduce the risk of death," said Fauci, director of the NIAID, the agency that supported the drug trial.

Hammer said officials directing the national study moved swiftly after an independent data and safety panel monitoring the trials recommended ending the tests because it was clear patients on the three-drug combination were getting significant benefit.

The trial had tested 1,156 HIV patients at 33 different hospitals or clinics across the nation. The patients had been enrolled in the study for up to a year, with a median participation of 38 weeks.

Patients were randomly assigned to receive either all three of the drugs, or AZT, 3TC and a placebo.

"Survival and a delay in disease progression were significantly better in patients receiving the triple combination therapy," the NIAID reported.

Among patients on the triple drug combination, there were 33 instances of

disease progression while there were 66 instances among patients taking only AZT, 3TC and a placebo. Eight patients on the triple drug combination died, while 18 among the other group died.

For patients with a CD4 T-cell count of fewer than 50 per cubic millimeter, a very low level, "the benefit was statistically significant," the agency said.

CD4 T-cells, the white blood cells that are a key element of the body's immune system, are the primary targets of HIV. Healthy levels are 800 to 1,200 per cubic millimeter of blood.

The Treatment Action Group, an AIDS activist organization, said the results of the triple combination drug trial "could help to revolutionize treatment for most people with AIDS."

"This study is helping us to rethink the way we use anti-HIV drugs," said Spencer Cox, a director at TAG. "For now, the era of one-drug treatments with modestly potent anti-virals is over."

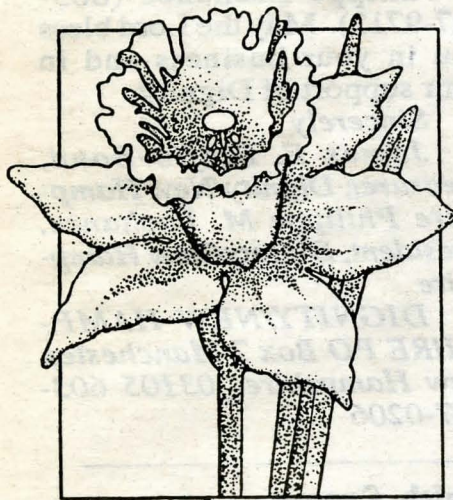
Daffodil Days and the American Cancer Society

The Cumberland Unit of the American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that a committee has been formed to plan the upcoming Daffodil Days. This event, held by the American Cancer Society, raises money to support its efforts to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.


The chairwoman this year is Carol Lavigne. Carol works as a financial analyst at Diversified Communications in Portland. When asked why she became involved in this event, she stated "I wanted to volunteer because almost everyone I know has been touched by cancer in some way. Daffodil Days, in particular, offers an opportunity for everyone in the community to participate in the fund-raising efforts of the American Cancer Society."

Other committee members are: Rebecca Andrews, Amber Grant, Earl Jeffries, Debbie Manning, Terri Powell, Stacey Silvers, Carla Stenber, Charlotte Sullivan, Gordon Keenan, Peter Rapier, ACS Prostate Group, and the Windham High School National Honor Society. In addition, Andy MacLean is serving as Income Development Leader and Jennifer Weast as Communications Leader, with Linda Rohret as Executive Director.

Daffodil Days this year will be March 20, 21, and 22nd. Please contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-464-3102 if you are interested in either volunteering for this event or ordering flowers.



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News from the Granite State

CVS sued for sexual, Anti-Gay harassment

by Katharine Webster

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Richard Provencher says he's always been a private person who minded his own business but found himself harassed for being gay and ultimately being fired when he protested.

He is suing the Woonsocket, R.I.-based CVS drug store chain. He says he was harassed sexually by his woman boss and taunted for being homosexual but managers failed to intervene and found a pretext to fire him.

"I've always grown up a private person," he said. "You live your private life, you're the guys next door — you're not the couple next door," Provencher said.

"I never asked for anything special. I just wanted equal rights. I basically never even asked for my rights. I was just doing my job, and I was an outstanding performer for them," he said.

Provencher, who now works for the U.S. Postal Service at a much lower salary than he earned with CVS, said he had encountered discrimination in his personal life. But the New Hampshire native who grew up going to Catholic schools and is a registered Republican,

said he had never been an activist for gay rights.

In a telephone interview last week, however, Provencher said he could not discuss details of the case in which jury selection was set to begin today in U.S. District Court.

Although New Hampshire law does not prohibit workplace discrimination against gays and lesbians, Provencher argues the harassment was a breach of contract because it violated CVS' own anti-discrimination policy, according to court records.

Jill Blackmer, a Concord lawyer specializing in employment law, said such lawsuits can be successful if the company explicitly prohibits discrimination against homosexuals. However, many companies say they "strive" for a discrimination-free workplace, but make no promises, she said.

Provencher also is suing for sexual harassment and illegal retaliation under the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, Title VII. He also names several individual managers, claiming "intentional infliction of emotional distress."

Provencher, a Manchester resident,

was hired by CVS as an assistant store manager in 1988 and was promoted to manager at a different store before being fired in 1995, a few months after filing discrimination complaints with the state Human Rights Commission and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

He suffered no harassment at his first store placement, in Plaistow, but after he was transferred to the Hudson store in November 1989, his new boss made it clear "she didn't want a man in the store" and it was "her goal to have the first all-female store," court records said.

The store manager, Deborah Banaian, called him a "faggot," a "queer," and a "dick," and made him ask permission to use the bathroom. She also grabbed his buttocks and crotch and took off her pants and shirt in front of him, making sexual gestures and claiming she could make him into "a real man," court records said.

Meanwhile, she gave him an excessive number of written warnings about his job performance, court records said. Later, Banaian told him she had acted at the encouragement of the dis-

trict manager.

When Provencher complained to CVS managers, including one who gave a company workshop on sexual harassment, he was told to keep quiet or to put the harassment behind him, court records said; when he filed written grievances with the company, CVS failed to investigate.

That changed when he filed complaints with the state and federal civil rights agencies, the lawsuit said. CVS initiated an investigation and banned Banaian from the Salem store Provencher was managing at the time.

However, Provencher was fired in May 1995 after refusing to turn over his checks for jury duty to a different district manager. He said the district manager refused to give him a receipt; CVS said he was fired for falsifying or altering payroll records.

Deborah Banaian has counter-sued

A request from Dignity New Hampshire

Dear Friend of Dignity

On behalf of the Board of Dignity/New England, we are seeking your help in assisting us in obtaining prizes/donations for our Raffle which will take place in April 1997. The proceeds from this raffle will enable us to offer scholarships to those in need from the New England Region who would like to attend the Biannual Dignity/USA Convention, which will take place in Boston during the month of July.

Our goal is to solicit offerings from those Hotels, Motels, B & B's, etc, in the Provincetown and Ogunquit areas. This would enable our

raffle tickets to be sold to both the gay and straight communities as well as members from outside New England who would like to take advantage of the prizes during vacations, holidays away, etc. As always, any offerings which you may give to us, to be presented as a prize, will be subject to any restrictions as deemed by yourself.

Those of you who would be so kind as to donate a prize to us will receive a Certificate of Donation for your tax records. All donations to Dignity/New England are tax deductible up to the fullest amount allowed by IRS regulations.

For those of you who may not know what Dignity is, let me take a minute to give you a brief description of our mission. Dignity is a national organization of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual Catholics, as well as their families, friends and loved ones who come together to create community. Our goal is to affirm each other in our faith, as well as to promote the Catholic tradition through liturgy, prayer, retreats, social activities, community building activities and service projects. There are Chapters of Dignity in the following New England areas: Boston, Maine, New Hampshire, Fall River, Hartford, New Haven, Providence and Provincetown.

We are asking that if you can help us through a donation of a weekend stay or one or two night stay, please advise us at the above address by March 17,

1997. As we stated earlier, whatever you can do to assist us would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Dignity/New England, we thank you in advance for your generosity in assisting us in our Raffle. If there are any questions or if you would like more specific details, please do not hesitate to call us at the following numbers: Jim Profiro-Bond (603-464-6546) or Philippe Lachance (603-647-9712). May the Lord bless you in your business and in your support of Dignity.

Sincerely

James F. Profiro-Bond,
Treasurer, Dignity/New Hampshire
Philippe M. Lachance,
President, Dignity/New Hampshire

DIGNITY/NEW HAMPSHIRE
PO Box 7 Manchester,
New Hampshire 03105 603-647-0206

Our Featured Programs on Menopause

Herbal Support for the Menopausal Years

Monday March 3rd 7:00-8:30pm

Rebecca Petee, herbalist at Harbour Women's Health will talk about how to take care of ourselves with herbs from the peri-menopausal years through the post-menopausal years.

Women's Writing & Women's Wisdom for Vintage Women (50+)

Wednesday, March 5th 6:30-8:30pm

Women authors have given us much material for dignifying and enjoying our new "maturity" Together with Sally Wool, M.Ed., we will sample their thoughts and share some of our own. Call for reading list.

Naturopathic Medicine for the Menopausal Years

Tuesday, April 15th, 7:00-8:30pm

Come join local naturopathic doctor, Kristy Fassler, from North Coast Family Health and explore such questions as the pros and cons of hormone replacement therapy and honoring life changes.

Free Women's Health Exams

Saturdays from 9:00am - 12:00pm

March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th and April 19th

Please call for an appointment at 431-1669

If you are a woman over 40 and need health services or have any questions, please give us a call at 431-1669

Crunch time for HB 421 Anti-discrimination Bill

The Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) is busy preparing for the upcoming hearings on the bill which will add "sexual orientation" to New Hampshire's Law Against Discrimination. The bill now has a number - HB 421 (It is currently and fondly referred to as "the Bill formerly known as 1294"). It is anticipated that it will be heard by the House Judiciary and Family Law Committee in late February or early March. Last year, after putting the bill into extended study, the Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly voted that "it ought to pass," but no action was taken before the end of the 1996 session.

We have reason to hope that this year's Legislature will vote favorably on the bill. In addition, Governor

Jeanne Shaheen voted for a previous version of this bill (HB1432) in 1994, and we expect that once this bill reaches her desk that she will sign it into law.

What you can do NOW to help get this legislation passed: Contact the members of the House Judiciary Committee and let them know that you are in favor of this bill (letters are good, but phone calls and personal visits are best). The names, phone numbers and addresses of the committee members are included in this issue of CPR. Also, contact your friends and family and let them know about this bill and why it is important. Please be polite! In the past this committee and the House itself have supported us—both parties. There are three

points that we need to educate people on:

1. Discrimination is ALWAYS wrong.
2. Discrimination based on sexual orientation exists in New Hampshire.
3. This bill protects everyone (straight and gay) from discrimination based on sexual orientation; it is not a "Gay Rights" bill.

We will continue to let you know about the progress of the bill and how you can help make New Hampshire the 10th state to have this protection for its citizens.

Information provided by CAGLR (NH Citizen's Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Rights)

Anti-Same Sex Marriage Bill in House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 260, defining marriage in New Hampshire as a union of "one man and one woman," was heard by the House Judiciary Committee on February 6 and 13. This bill, sponsored by Representative Paul Mirski of Enfield, would place the language of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (passed by the US Congress last August), into New Hampshire law. Current law already prohibits same gender marriage. A recent court case in Hawaii showed that there is no valid reason to prohibit same gender marriage. Although a majority of US citizens still do not approve of these marriages, opposition continues to shrink as more and more people meet lesbian and gay couples and recognize the unfair disadvantages that these couples face.

At the hearings, Representative Mirski indicated he thought it was important that the legislature take up the issue. He believes that differences in the treatment of same-sex couples should be based on real social interests rather than

discrimination and that the only justification he could see for giving legal privileges to married couples involved creating strong units to care for children. He is certainly not homophobic. For example, he said his reading of the scientific literature showed gay and lesbian parents to be just as good at raising children as heterosexuals. During discussions between the hearings, Representative Mirski and other members of the Committee began to understand how many of our people have or want to have children and how much the denial of equal legal status hurts our families.

Unfortunately, his bill drew out the usual "family values" crowd who think they can somehow build up their families by slandering ours. The head of the NH Christian Coalition appeared. The Roman Catholic Diocese sent a letter of endorsement. On the other hand, CAGLR's Mo Baxley denounced the Bill in blunt and forceful terms (that made the Channel 9 news), and Marcus Hurn had the Committee laughing as he

satirized some of the supporters' reasoning. Marcus also did a live point-counterpoint against the head of the Christian Coalition for Channel 9's cable affiliate, making the point that several religious denominations now recognize same-sex marriage or unions. The introduction of the bill has turned into a positive education opportunity. There is some sentiment in the committee for turning the whole thing around into a bill allowing domestic partnerships with many of the legal rights of marriage. However, the original bill will still come up on the floor of the House, and despite Rep. Mirski's best intentions, if it passes, it will be a serious setback for our community.

You can help stop this legislation by contacting representatives on the House Judiciary Committee, asking them to vote either for further study (so it can be turned into a domestic partnership bill) or to kill it outright. Their addresses and phone numbers are included in this issue of CPR.

Outright Facilitators being Recruited

Concord Outright, a support and social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth is seeking new facilitators. It meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Three volunteer facilitators are present each week, on a rotating basis to provide structure and support to the 25 - 35 youth attending.

Meeting since late 1995, Concord Outright serves a variety of purposes, from simply a safe place to go to once a week, to an affirming peer group net-

work, to a place where the hard issues of dealing with sexual orientation get listened to.

Current facilitators come from diverse backgrounds and while some have professional skills which are valuable to the group, the most important skill that one can bring is willingness to listen and help members help each other. The group in many ways is successful at managing its own issues so don't feel as though you have to be an experienced group leader.

A social hour and pot luck dinner, provided by current facilitators, will be held on March 21 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in Concord, location TBA. This is an opportunity for folks who may be interested in being a facilitator to hear some of the experiences (and stories) from the current facilitators. If you would like to attend, or just want more information about Outright, call Knox Turner at 603-463-5608. Help provide today's youth with a safe place to grow.

The NH House Jediciary and Family Law Committee

Here is the list of members of the key house committee for the anti-discrimination bill (and the marriage definition bill). We need to respectfully contact these people in support of the anti-discrimination bill. Historically, this committee has been very supportive, but they need to know how important the bill is for NH citizens. Some committee members may not favor the bill—be polite and brief with them. Don't wrangle, get angry or threaten—that's for the fanatics on the other side.

Republicans:

John J. McCarthy, Jr. (Rock. 24) (Chair) 603-436-4189; 116 Main Street Box 111 New Castle, NH 03854-0111
Deborah L. Woods (Rock. 25) (Vice Chair) 603-772-4205; 8 Tucker's Trail Stratham, NH 03885
Majorie H. Battles (Rock. 18) 603-642-7728; 25 Lake Road Brentwood, NH 03833

David A. Bickford (Straf. 01) 603-859-7899; 183 Brackett Road New Durham, NH 03855-2329

Julie M. Brown (Straf. 17) 603-332-1084; 414 Lilac City East Rochester, NH 03867-4552

Susan J. Clay (Hills. 04) 603-487-2171; 150 Bunker Hill Road P.O. Box 92 New Boston, NH 03070-0092

Thomas M. Colburn (Merr. 12) 603-226-0963; 423 Cross Country Road Pembroke, NH 03275

Carol H. Holden (Hills. 14) 603-673-8167; 23 Manchester Road P.O. Box 13 Amherst, NH 03031-0013

Alf E. Jacobson (Merr. 02) 603-526-6654; 52 Burpee Hill Road P.O. Box 188 New London, NH 03257-0188

Sandra B. Keans (Straf. 16) 603-332-3472; 1 Sweetbriar Lane Rochester, NH 03867-3735

Evelyn S. Letendre (Hills. 15) 603-472-3607; 4 West Wind Drive Bedford, NH 03110-5610

Paul M. Mirski (Graf. 12) 603-632-4945; RR 1 Box 244 Enfield, NH 03748

Neil J. Reardon (Rock. 15) 603-329-5772; Stage Road Junction Hampstead, NH 03841

Kevin H. Smith (Rock. 29) 603-437-2032; 4 Overlook Avenue Londonderry, NH 03053

Democrats:

Janet G. Wall (Straf. 09) 603-749-3051; 4 Pudding Hill Road Madbury, NH 03820-7001

David C. Allison (Sull. 10) 603-543-3481; RR 2 Box 889 Cornish, NH 03745-9743

Lionel W. Johnson (Hills. 40) 603-668-4486; 276 Central Street Manchester, NH 03103-4744

Cynthia A. McGovern (Rock. 35) 603-427-1702; 7A South Mill Street Portsmouth, NH 03801

Wayne T. Moynihan (Coos. 02) 603-449-2058; Plain Road RR 3 Box 3460 Berlin, NH 03570-9310

Irene A. Pratt (Ches. 05) 603-239-4597; 66 Clark Road Winchester, NH 03470-2201

Barbara Hull Richardson (Ches. 12) 603-239-8346; 101 Morgan Road Richmond, NH 03470-4909

Marjorie K. Smith (Straf. 08) 603-868-7500; P. O. Box 136 Durham, NH 03824-0136

C'mon... Be a Buddy!

If you've got a couple of hours a week to make a difference in the life of someone living with HIV infection, be a Buddy.

With support from the Greater Seacoast United Way, AIDS Response Seacoast is conducting volunteer Buddy training beginning on Saturday, April 5th, 1997.

Buddies will be trained to provide one on one emotional and practical support to persons living with HIV or AIDS.

If you are interested, please contact Al Forbes at AIDS Response Seacoast, 603-433-5377 or 800-375-1144 (from NH or Maine).

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A Special Donation in memory of a beloved Classmate

The Ashland Community High School Class of 1976 recently made a \$400 donation to the HEALTH 1st "Aroostook Community and Provider HIV/AIDS Education Project". This donation was made in the memory of their beloved friend and classmate Bryon Dale Boutot.

Originally from Portage Lake, Byron was salutatorian of the ACHS class of 1976. He went on to study French at the University of Maine at Orono, including studying abroad in Rennes, France. After graduating from UMO, Bryon lived in San Francisco until his death in 1993 from AIDS-related complications.

According to Debra Madore, Community Education Specialist for HEALTH 1st, "This donation will assist with a very special effort. People infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Aroostook County often feel a sense of isolation. They may be afraid to talk about what is happening, or has happened, to them or their loved ones. This fear may prevent them from seeking the services that could be helpful to them."

In an effort to assist these individuals in accessing helpful services, a directory of support people and agencies is being developed. This directory will facilitate the referral process, making it easier for individuals to get the help they

so desperately need. The directory will be distributed to all the providers listed within it, as well as people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, friends and care providers. The directory will also be distributed to individuals who test positive through HEALTH 1st HIV Antibody Testing and Counseling Services.

This directory is being developed and distributed in memory of Bryon Dale Boutot, recognizing the ACHS Class of 1976 for their donation. For further information about the directory, or HIV education opportunities, contact Debra Madore at HEALTH 1st, 768-3056 or toll-free at 1-800-432-7881.

PAWS forced to close Pet Food Bank

Portland, Maine Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) an AIDS Service Organization formed in 1993 is forced to close the Pet Food Distribution Center located in Portland due to lack of Funding and support from the community. It is one of the hardest things that I ever had to do is to tell these clients that there will be no more free pet food and kitty litter available after the office closes. For approximately 3 = Years PAWS has offered this service to People With AIDS in Maine, along with several other pet-related services. The decision to discontinue these services was due to the lack of funds to pay the rent (\$200.00 a month) and the monthly expenses of phone and utilities.

PAWS will remain an active Pet Care Advocacy Organization. Charles Wynott, the Co-Founder, along with the late Jon M. Piefer, has been the Executive Director of PAWS since the beginning as a volunteer for no pay. When faced with the real possibility of closing the PAWS office he began to look for other areas of the country where the services of PAWS could be supported. Through our web page on the Internet (<http://www.ime.net/PAWS/>) we were asked by clients from everywhere to please help start a Chapter in their city. One of those cities was Orlando, Florida. In a recent trip to Orlando to investigate the possibilities we were amazed to find

a community that worked together and was welcoming of our Proposal. After several meetings in the AIDS community we came back to begin the plans to relocate. We plan to begin servicing clients in Orlando by 1998.

People and current clients wishing to find out more about future plans for PAWS are encouraged to call (207) 874-0091 or check out our web page. Mail inquiries can be sent to: PAWS 120B Brackett Street, Portland, Maine 04102 c/o Charles Wynott.

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) 142 High Street, Suite 330 Portland, Maine 04101 (207) 775-PAWS

New Hampshire ACTION ALERT:

Now is the Time to help end discrimination based on Sexual Orientation!

House Bill 421, which will add 'Sexual Orientation' to our state's Civil Rights Laws, will be heard by the House Judiciary and Family Law Committee on Tuesday, March 4 at 1:30 pm in Representatives Hall of the State House in Concord.

What you need to do Now:

1. Attend the hearing. We need to show the committee that this is an important issue. You do not need to testify, just your presence in support will make a strong statement.

2. Contact your Representatives before March 12. To find out who your representatives are, contact the Statehouse at 271-1110, or your local town/city hall.

3. Provide your support to CED. Contact us at 224-1686, or 358-6160. If you can't provide time, provide money. Any amount will help. Make your check payable to: CED, PO Box 74, Concord NH, 03302-0074.

Maine Initiatives 1996 Grantees

Augusta - Maine Initiatives is pleased to announce two grantees for the 1996 grant cycle. Mainely Girls, based in Rockland; and Outright, based in Portland, will both receive three year funding totaling \$35,000 each to expand their programs to new communities in Maine.

"While many of the thirty-one proposals we received this year were worthy of support," acknowledged Deborah Felder, Maine Initiative's Executive Director, "these two projects rose to the top in their ability to use grassroots community organizing as a means to achieve systemic change."

Mainely Girls will hire a full-time staff person to work with five rural communities in Maine to develop a program similar to one that has already been successfully established in the Camden/Rockport area. In each community, women and girls organize to identify unmet needs and create an action plan. In Camden/Rockport, this includes advising a student-organized gender equity

organization, working with the local hospital to coordinate an eating disorders support group, initiate a high school program about acquaintance rape, create a Mainely Girls Student Executive Board and organizing an annual conference for girls. The vision of Mainely Girls is to create empowered teams of women and girls who are capable of making change in their own communities by improving the environment in which girls grow to maturity.

Outright seeks to create a safe, positive and affirming environment for gay, lesbian and questioning youth, ages 22 and under. Gay youths are at high risk of alienation, suicide, violence from others, substance abuse and AIDS. Outright currently works with the Civil Rights Unit of the Maine Attorney General's office to establish the Civil Rights Teams of students and staff in pilot schools across the state. For nine years, Outright did all its work through volunteers. Over the past year, Outright

has helped community members in Bangor, Belfast and Lewiston to develop autonomous Outright groups. Outright will use Maine Initiatives funding to hire a volunteer coordinator and expand the successful Portland-based program to three additional Maine communities and create a coalition of Outright groups statewide.

Maine Initiatives was formed in 1993 as a public foundation, providing grants solely through funds raised from individual donors. Its purpose is to provide significant, start-up funding to projects or programs that offer grassroots solutions to social, economic or environmental problems. Grantees must have limited access initially to traditional funding sources, involve the constituency served in both leadership and membership, emphasize volunteerism and support democratic values in the search for common ground among diverse groups.

Women's Health Consortium

The Women's Health Consortium is a volunteer collaboration of many local service providers and community members working to better women's health in the Seacoast. Their mission is to improve the health and wellness of women in the Greater Seacoast. The Steering Committee includes Families First Greater Seacoast, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Sexual Assault Support Services and Columbia Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

Among the programs offered are

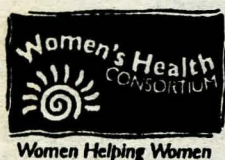
free women's health exams for women 40 and over in downtown Portsmouth every other Saturday from 9 am - 12 pm. The clinic includes a pap smear, pelvic exam, clinical breast exam and referral for mammogram as needed. These services are provided for women who do not have insurance, a health care provider or are lacking the means for health care.

The Women's Health Consortium offers a Mammogram voucher program for women who need mammography (an

x-ray of the breast) but are unable to afford it. The first step in the process is to be screened by a healthcare provider and then have the provider call the Consortium to obtain a mammogram voucher.

The free women's health exams are available on Saturdays, March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th and April 19th, from 9 am - 12 pm.

If you are a woman 40 or over and in need of health services or have any questions, call 603-431-1669.



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MLGPA Hosts Evening of Awards and Celebration

The MLGPA 12th Annual Awards Banquet was held Saturday, February 8, at the Augusta Civic Center. Attendance was almost 300 and the evening was enjoyed by all. Most notable were the awards presented to individuals who have contributed significantly to our community.

The Cameron Duncan Award (Outstanding AIDS Community Service) presented to Pe-



Peter Haffenreffer receives the Cameron Duncan award. Presented by Chris Behan (left)

ter Haffenreffer of Portland

Peter Haffenreffer is a founding member and the president of the Board of Directors of the Peabody House in Portland. The Peabody House is a residential house for AIDS patients in the advanced stages. Without Peter's vision, contributions, and leader-

ship over the last several years, Peabody House may never have become a reality.

The F.E. Pentlarge Award (Outstanding Demonstration of Family Values) presented to Peter Rees of Ellsworth. Peter Rees has advocated for gay / lesbian / bisexual / transgendered rights for many years, in many different arenas. He was co-chair of the Hancock County Maine Won't Discriminate chapter in 1995, he was co-chair of the Decline to Sign project of MLGPA in 1996, and he is a founding member the fledgling Downeast Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN). As a non-gay member of the community, Peter's actions demonstrate what family values are really all about.

The Media Award presented to Maine Public Radio for Maine Things Considered Maine Things Considered was awarded for their fair and balanced reporting of issues important to the g/l/b/t community. Hardly a story went by



Laura Fortman

that they did not cover fairly and consistently, with respect and dignity, much more than any other radio or TV news network.

Community Service Award presented to Laura Fortman, Director of the Maine Women's Lobby According to Laura's presenter at the banquet, Laura Fortman is a bridge. A bridge is a solid structure, under which there are swamps, dangerous waters, and untreatable territory.

Laura serves as that solid structure in our community, being the means by which we are able to



Franny Peabody (center) founder of Peabody House



Michael Rosetti and Laurie Fortman

pass over untreatable territory. Laura Fortman is a tireless leader and advocate for women, g/l/b/t, and people of disadvantaged status. She is one of the most effective lobbyists in Augusta and the gay community owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to her leadership and companionship.

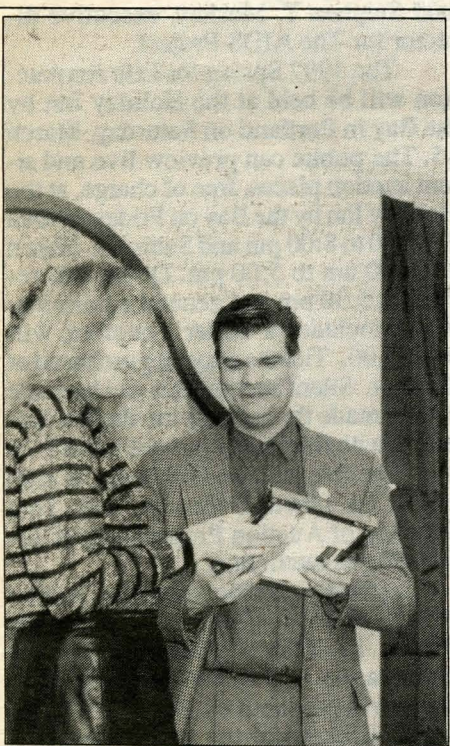
Community Service Award pre-

sented to Southern Maine Pride Committee Michael Rosetti and Laurie Fortman (not to be confused with Laura Fortman) stepped forward to receive the community service award on behalf of the Southern Maine Pride Committee. Southern Maine Pride has grown tremendously in the last several years, thanks to the tireless hours of volunteerism by the Pride Committee. All one has to do is come to Portland in June to witness the largest weekend-long gay event in the state. Their work is truly worthy of community service.

Community Service Award presented to Paula Stockholm, founder of Maine GayNet Paula Stockholm is solely responsible for bringing Maine GayNet to the gay community of this state. Paula (at Paula@maine.com) has opened an avenue of communication that never existed in the history of the Maine gay community. People in rural Maine are now able to keep abreast of information and events happening across the state. And organizations now have an additional forum by which to communicate their most important information. Thank you Paula!



Paula Stockholm



Peter Rees

Photo's by Tom Antonik

Arts and Entertainment

Kate Clinton: Madame President of comedy!



It's official; the votes have been tallied—KATE CLINTON is now the Madame President of comedy! Her agenda includes political material as fresh as the daily news, savvy send-ups of modern family relationships and illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American. No skeletons in this Clinton's closet, Kate began performing as an openly gay comic from the start - (you don't have to ask, she'll tell!!). An outspoken, hip, and uproarious breath of fresh air, this versatile comic has taken an oath promising life, liberty and the pursuit of laughter...and unlike some of her political targets, she delivers!

Throughout 1996, KATE'S one-woman show, "All Het Up", toured cities across the country. And as of this summer, Kate found success of a different kind - she joined "The Rosie O'Donnell Show", the most popular new daytime show to debut in a decade, in her first staff position as a television

writer seeing them through their initial launch and roll-out period. But once stand-up is in the blood, it's hard to stay away from the thrill of live performance, so KATE has returned to her first love with a new show for the new year, "The Mad Vow Tour". At the same time, she is putting the finishing touches on her first book, "CommuniKATE", to be published by Ballantine in '97. Based on her past and present monologues, it's filled with thoughts both insightful and riotous. Also, KATE writes a monthly column titled "Unplugged" in The Progressive, a magazine politically skewed to the left, in which she waxes by turns comical and philosophical about the state of our nation and those who have put us in such a state.

In 1993 her one-woman show "Out Is In" debuted to sold-out crowds in Los Angeles, after which KATE moved it to New York for a 3 month run off-Broadway. The Los Angeles Times noted, "Kate Clinton is the lesbian you want to take home to meet your parents....She's so far out of the closet, so natural in her sexual identity, that a homophobe would beg her to spend the night. She's astute and - above all - amusing. Not liking Kate Clinton would be impossible - even by the Joint Chiefs of Staff." In New York, "Out Is In" was such a smash it was held over three times during its run and had the New York Times Reviewer "in tears from laughing so hard."

The year 1995 saw KATE debuting her next one-woman show titled "Impure Thoughts" in Los Angeles. It was an evening dedicated to Jocelyn Elders'. The Los Angeles Times again gave it a rave rating, saying "You would

be wise to catch this casually structured and smartly observed evening of stand-up, full of jokes you know are new because they're often about things that happened a few days ago". Back Stage West noted "Her amiable presence and energy lightens your heart - when its not making your stomach hurt from laughing."

Still radically chic after all these 15 minutes, Kate has appeared on "Arsenio Hall", "Comedy Central", "Good Morning America", "Nightline", CNN, C-Span ("I 'kill' on C-Span", she deadpans), "Entertainment Tonight", TV Food Network, FX and PBS. Additional credits include hosting "In The Life", a televised gay news/variety show, collaborating on WGBH's acclaimed summer series "The World According to Us" which also aired as three specials on the Lifetime network; appearing on Comedy Central's "Out There II" stand-up special; and participating in a staged reading of Tony Award-winner Tony Kushner's newest play, "SLAVS!", with Olympia Dukakis, Tracey Ullman and Madeline Kahn at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York. In addition, KATE has four comedy albums to her credit.

A self-described Fumorist (that's feminist and humorist) and "gal comedian" par excellence, KATE was formerly an English teacher for eight years. Teaching taught her a thing or two about audience captivation. "Being a teacher is the same as being a comic; you work the room. You learn to deal with hecklers. You plan a show. And you try things to get laughs." A writing workshop, and an improvisational class with

future comic Bob Goldthwait, convinced KATE that her political views deserved a public hearing, so she quit teaching, took a job as a window washer and started airing her opinions in church basements and bars. Speaking out about the important things on her mind, KATE started her professional stand-up career in 1981 using politics, Catholicism and her lesbianism to compose a repertoire of topics. "performing is a little like jazz," she says. "You have the basic themes and then you improvise off them and return to them from time to time."

Growing up, KATE made her first inroads toward comedy at the dinner table where her goal was to get her oldest brother to fall off his chair. Yes, KATE CLINTON has a brother Bill (although no relation to the man in the White House, the common surname has made for some interesting material! At one point she considered changing her name to Hilarity Clinton but more recently has thoughts of calling herself Katie Elders.) One never knows just what will strike KATE's heightened sense of whimsy - her new goal is to write comedy all people can dance to.

But, when it comes to the tough political questions of our times (Shouldn't Newt's last name be Gingreally, really rich?), it's without a doubt that KATE CLINTON has all the answers. A consummate family entertainer, KATE continues to prove that this and every year is the year of the really funny woman.

Kate will be coming soon to Portland. For more information see the April issue of CPR.

Spring for Life Art Auction

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Spring for Life, one of Maine's most prestigious art auctions, is entering its second decade as a major fundraiser for The AIDS Project. Last year's auction was attended by more than 800 people, and raised \$70,000 for The AIDS Project. This year's event promises to be equally exciting, with the featured signature piece a Jamie Wyeth lithograph, "Herring Gulls", which was donated to the auction by NYNEX. Other artists whose works will be auc-

tioned off on March 15th to benefit The AIDS Project include Connie Hayes (last year's signature artist), Wendy Newcomb, Scott Potter, Carol Sebold and Michael McNally.

"Spring for Life would not be possible without the strong support of Maine's artistic community," said Larry Bliss, chair of the 1997 Spring for Life Committee. "The body of work that Spring for Life offers has grown in quality and quantity every year, and that is central to what makes this such an exciting art event. And of course, our corporate sponsors and volunteers have also been instrumental in growing Spring for Life into its second decade of fundraising for The AIDS Project."

After several years of support for Spring for Life, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine has once again provided a major grant to support Spring for Life. Other corporate sponsors of the 1997 auction include the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Harmon's Barton's, Maine Street Communications, Letterworks and NYNEX. Bliss estimates that when this 11th annual Spring for Life auction concludes, more than 300 volunteers will have been a part of making the event a reality.

The public will have many ways to get an early glimpse of some of the artwork that will be auctioned on March 15th. Works from this year's Spring for Life Art Auction will be accessible online at <http://www.maine.com/aidsart>. Low-tech arts aficionados can take ad-

vantage of the special art previews, March 1-12, at Katadhin restaurant, Perfetto Restaurant, Barbara's Kitchen and Coffee by Design.

"The money raised by Spring for Life supports our mission of providing high quality AIDS serviced and education to the people of southern Maine," said Stephen T. Moskey, executive director for The AIDS Project.

The 1997 Spring for Life Art Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland on Saturday, March 15. The public can preview live and silent auction pieces, free of charge, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on Friday, March 14, 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday, March 15, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Doors will reopen at 5:30 pm and general admission, which includes a bidder's number, will be \$15.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Silent auction bids can be made throughout the day on Saturday, with final silent bids tallied at 7:30 pm. The live auction will begin at 8:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom, with Tom Saturley of Auction Properties Ltd. officiating as auctioneer.

A festive artists' reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 15, featuring complimentary champagne and beverages, and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Portland's finest chefs. Tickets for the artists' reception are \$40.00 per person, which includes admission to the auction, and can be purchased at the door or by calling The AIDS Project at 204-774-6877.

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Lettice and Lovage

By Rosemary Denman

Two women... couldn't be more different from one another if they tried. There's Lettice, a middle-aged, rather lonely woman who discovers that her theatrical flair for telling historical half-truths actually draws people to her. Then there's Lotte, also a woman in her middle years, whose dreams have long ago been forgotten, and who plods through each day putting one foot in front of the other working in middle management. Bring these two women together, add Lettice's potent homebrew called "Lovage" and now we have a story coming together.

Lettice is employed as a tour guide at what she considers to be one of the most boring historical houses in all of England. Lotte is the manager of the office that employs Lettice. They have never met, until Lotte calls Lettice into her office to fire her. Seems Lettice has been spicing up the historical facts about the house at which she serves as guide. Lettice has gotten some very nice letters, and tips, from some very satisfied tourists. Lotte, on the other hand, has received all of the complaint letters about Lettice from the more disgruntled

and less theater minded. And so the two women meet.

From this bleak beginning of one firing the other dawns a friendship in which Lettice helps Lotte remember her dreams, as well as finding the playful inner child who loves drama, no matter how many times the truth is cut in half. And Lotte helps Lettice too. By being her friend, by entering her world, Lotte helps Lettice rediscover self-worth and joy.

The play's message: Perhaps there's a little Lettice in each of us; she just needs a little help "coming out".

"Ellen" is coming out

NEW YORK (AP) — The much-rumored episode about the TV character "Ellen" coming out as a lesbian has been written.

The special one-hour episode, targeted to run during the May sweeps, has Ellen Degeneres' character finally reveal to her therapist that she is in love with a woman, according to the March 1 issue of TV Guide.

The script has yet to be approved by ABC or Walt Disney Television, which produces "Ellen," the magazine said.

The story involves a visit from a single guy that Ellen went to college

with, TV Guide said. But instead of falling for him, Ellen is attracted to his lesbian friend, who may be played by Laura Dern of "Jurassic Park." The therapist may be played by Oprah Winfrey.

The magazine said Degeneres took personal interest in the story, sitting in with the writers on several occasions to give input.

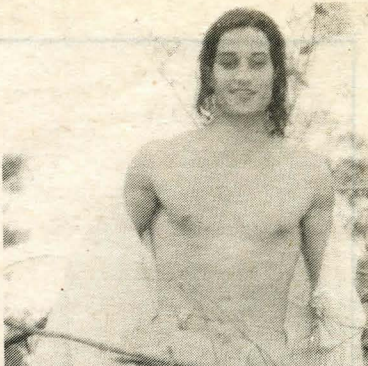
Walt Disney studio executives, who must approve the script, have asked for revisions but apparently liked the story, according to Disney sources quoted by TV Guide. After Walt Disney Television President Dean Valentine OKs the script, it will be sent to ABC

executives, who also must sign off on it.

The ABC series has been moved to Tuesday nights starting March 4. The show was scheduled to go off the air in March and April so the network could use its 9:30 p.m. Wednesday slot to introduce a sitcom starring Arsenio Hall.

During the May sweeps, "Ellen" will return to its regular Wednesday time period, and Hall's as-yet-untitled show, if it does well, will be moved to another time slot.

Ellen's coming out episode is scheduled to air April 30th.



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Seattle School accepts grant to buy Gay, Lesbian family books

SEATTLE (AP) — On the cover of "Daddy's Wedding" by Michael Willhoite are pictures showing a wedding cake, a man with his arm around another man and the two men giving each other pieces of cake.

That's one of the books being provided to public grade school libraries throughout the city under a \$6,150 grant from the Fund for Lesbian & Gay Families with Children endowed last year by City Council member Tina Podlowdowski and her partner, Rochelle Mileur.

The books are part of a project designed to increase understanding of different kinds of families and "dispel myths and stereotypes," according to the school system's grant application.

The project amounts to promoting homosexuality, said state Sen. Harold Hochstatter, R-Moses Lake, who supports a bill to bar discussion of homosexuality as a normal or acceptable lifestyle in the public schools.

"It is very, very subtle," Hochstatter said Friday. "The subtlety

is the poison in this whole thing. It is the kind of thing these children would be vulnerable to and needs to be resisted."

Tracy Flynn, a school system health curriculum specialist, denied that the schools were promoting any lifestyle.

"We are just acknowledging what already exists," Flynn said. "Our goal is to support all families. Gay and lesbian families exist in our district."

"Iphigenia and Other Daughters"

Celebrating Women's History Month, Portland Stage Company presents "Iphigenia and Other Daughters" which begins previews on March 2 and plays through March 23, 1997. Playwright-actor Ellen McLaughlin has adapted for the stage three of the classic Greek myths surrounding the Trojan War, removed the men as the focal point and given a 20th century tongue to the women in the House of Atreus while giving history a distinctly feminine voice. What remains is a powerful drama as seen through the eyes of Agamemnon's wife, Clytemnestra, and her daughters Electra, Chrysothemis and Iphigenia.

It's a Girl for Melissa Etheridge and partner Julie Cypher

LOS ANGELES (AP) It's a girl for singer Melissa Etheridge and her partner, Julie Cypher.

Bailey Jean Cypher, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, was born to Cypher early Monday, February 10, said Etheridge spokeswoman Gayle Fine.

Etheridge, the Grammy-winning singer of "Come to My Window," and Cypher, the former wife of "La Bamba" star Lou Diamond Phillips, disclosed last year that Cypher was carrying their child. The method of fertilization and the identity of the sperm donor weren't disclosed.

Fine said only that the birth took place in the Los Angeles area.

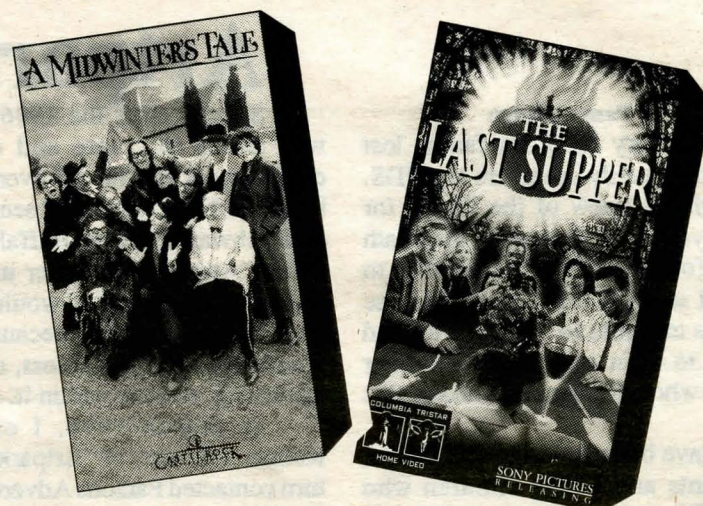
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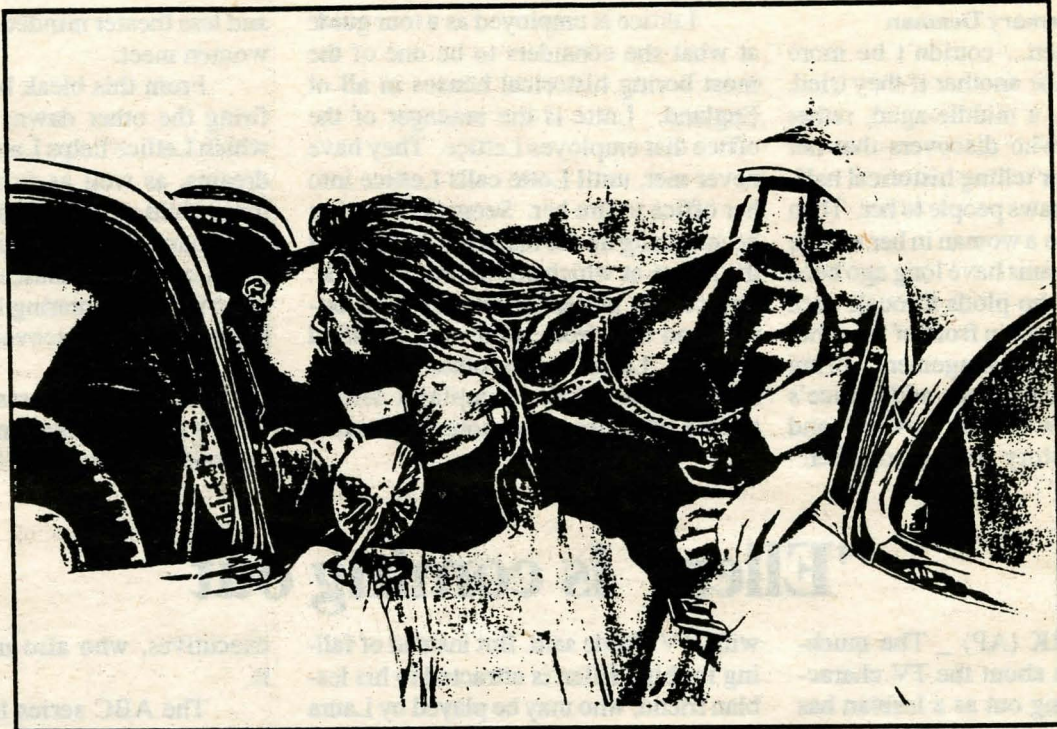
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"Freeway" by John Hafford, graphite on paper, 13 1/2" x 9", from the photograph, "Freeway" by Hafford

3rd annual AIDS Benefit to Celebrate LIFE

Saturday, March 22, 1997

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Artists For AIDS Awareness is an organization of Aroostook County artists dedicated to HIV and AIDS education and prevention. Our goal is to support a more compassionate, supportive and understanding community.

PREVIEW OF ARTWORK

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FOR INFORMATION: 493-4430

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Caribou • The Northland Studio
Fort Kent • Chamber of Commerce office
Houlton • Guido's Fitness Center
Houlton • Volumes
Madawaska • Chamber of Commerce office
Presque Isle • Aroostook Centre Mall
Presque Isle • Pieces of Eight Books

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Call 493-4430, 496-0900, or Deb Madore at
800-432-7881 for more information

Afaa, from page 1

was hand-pieced by local artisan and AFAA member Pam Glidden. Pam's quilt is truly a special work of art and labor of love. Her story about creating this piece is also included in this issue of CPR.

Members of the AFAA have asked me to write to Rosie O'Donnell and let her know about our efforts in the hopes that she would be our guest at our benefit in March. We invited Rosie because of her particular (perceived by us) interest in HIV/AIDS issues and grass roots responses to the epidemic. We would be honored to have her there supporting us in our project. We do hope that she can come.

Artpark

by Pam Glidden

In January 1995, my family lost one of our family members to AIDS. Although we knew of the illness for several years, the impact of the death was profound. Once I had the time to reflect, I decided that I wanted to use my skills and gifts to bring service and comfort to other individuals and their families who have been touched by this disease.

I have been making ABC Quilts, for infants and young children who were HIV positive, for several years. In the fall of 1995 I attended a local, Aroostook County group meeting of 'Artists For AIDS Awareness'. This group was a collection of artists who wanted to donate their time and work to raise money to support prevention education and treatment for Aroostook County. The largest effort of this group is to host an annual dinner and art auction in Caribou.

Shortly after the 1996 dinner I was asked to create and donate a quilted work for the '97 event. In my travels to New York, I had seen a poster in a subway kiosk in Buffalo, advertising "Artpark", a theater in Niagara Falls. I knew that it would make a perfect wall hanging because of the wonderful lines and colors, as well as the artistic themes within it.

In March 1996, I contacted Kathleen Rooney of "Artpark", who in turn contacted Parsons Advertising and the illustrator, Andrew Lewis. All parties gave me permission to use the design; one time only!

After I enlarged the design, I realized that I could never find commercially produced fabric to represent the coloration in the poster. (I had committed myself to a faithful representation) In April I bought commercial dyes and several books, and began hand dying many of the fabrics to be

used in the quilt.

I began hand piecing and appliqueing on May 1, 1996. I hand quilted the entire piece in a variety of metallic threads. It was completed on July 2nd, 1996. The day after completion I took the quilt to Artpark (it had been previously arranged). The piece was shown at the theater for the summer season and also travelled to Parsons Advertising in Ontario for a short time.

The quilt is made entirely of cotton. It is hand pieced and quilted (except for the "frame" which was done on the machine for strength).

The quilt will be auctioned at the 3RD Annual "Benefit to Celebrate Life", co-ordinated by Artists For AIDS awareness, on March 22, 1997 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center.

Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA) Art Auction Preview

The public is cordially invited to attend the Artists For AIDS Awareness (AFAA) Art Auction Preview. This event is being held on Saturday March 8, 1997, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the University of Maine at Presque Isle Pullen Art Gallery. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for attending this event.

Original pieces by the area's finest artists will be displayed. The impressive list of artists includes: Anderson Giles, Wendy Kindred, Richard Clark, Lisa Myers, Pam Glidden, Paul Carlson, Don Cyr, Mark Huff, Clifford Boudman, Constance Tucker, Rosiland Morgan, Li Turner, Stephen Hatch, Troy Cunningham, Vicky Kennedy and John Hafford.

Art work displayed at the preview will be auctioned during the AFAA "3RD Annual Benefit to Celebrate Life" scheduled for Saturday March 22, 1997 at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center. All proceeds are used for HIV/AIDS prevention education projects in The County.

For more information please contact Debra Madore, AFAA member, at 768-3056 or toll-free at 1-800-432-7881.

Couple denied Marriage license

by Ashley H. Grant

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Harriet Clare and Becky Thacker had picked out matching outfits for their big day. The two women donned black slacks, white blouses and red sweaters, then drove downtown Friday morning to apply for a marriage license.

As they expected, though, the lesbian couple was denied. Their bid to become legally bound to each other was purely symbolic because same-gender marriage is not legally recognized in Indiana.

"We're still married, as far as I'm concerned," Ms. Clare said after being turned away at the Marion County clerk's office. "The people were very nice. The clerk seemed genuinely sorry she couldn't give us a license."

The couple met and fell in love nine years ago. They have lived together for five years. They had a private union ceremony two years ago.

Still, the state doesn't recognize them as partners. "We would like very much to be legally married," Ms. Clare, 54, said. "I would like to see that happen in our lifetime."

Ms. Clare said she wants people to understand that she and her partner aren't trying to undermine heterosexual marriage. "We love each other the same way," she said. "We live together the same way. We do laundry together. We take out the garbage. We live the responsibilities. We would like to get some of the benefits."

That's why the couple decided to apply the marriage license as part of a national campaign by the National Organization for Women on Friday.

"Maybe by doing this action, we can do a little educating," she said. "We're wanting to be recognized the same way heterosexual couples are recognized."

That may not happen for awhile at least in Indiana.

The Indiana Senate on Monday passed legislation that would bar the state from legally recognizing same-sex marriages that have been certified in other states.

Sponsored by Sen. Johnny Nugent, R-Lawrenceburg, it is now eligible to be considered in the House.

"The purpose of the bill is to strengthen and clarify the intent of current law," Nugent said. "It's simply to preserve the union of marriage of one man and one woman."

Nugent said Hoosier sentiment is strong to support the current law. "I know that there are some that have indicated that we're discriminating against homosexuals," Nugent said. "We're not denying anyone's rights here because marriage is not a right. Marriage is a privilege."

If Indiana didn't discriminate, the state would have to allow bigamy, polygamy, same-sex and teen marriage, he said.

Becky Thacker, 48, disagrees. "It's discrimination," she said. "I'm paying the same taxes as everybody else. I work the same hours. We live the same kind of life. And they're saying if Harriet is in the hospital, I can't visit. If I die, she can't receive my Social Security."

Ms. Thacker doesn't understand why the state is involved in people's personal lives. "We love each other desperately and it's too bad it frightens people," she said. "I'd love to know why they're so afraid of us. It just boggles my mind."

Stephanie Ortoleva, president of Indiana NOW, said same-sex marriages from other states should be recognized as well as such unions in Indiana.

"In a state like Indiana that puts such emphasis on family and relationships, this is saying that some relationships just don't matter," Ms. Ortoleva said.

Sexual Assault Response Services

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine is a non-profit organization serving all male and female victims and survivors of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest and sexual harassment.

SARS also serve's family members, friends, co-workers and anyone needing information. They provide a 24 hour hotline which can be reached 24 hour a day, 365 days a year. Services are free and confidential and advocates are volunteers - trained and supervised by professionals.

SARS offer's support groups, provides referrals to area professionals, and will accompany a victim, if requested, to the hospital, police station or through court.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, you are not alone. Please call the hotline and speak to an advocate at 1-800-313-9900.

Mercy Hospital Support Group

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is sponsoring a new Transition Support Group for women who have recently finished breast cancer treatment. Group discussions will focus on stress reduction, sexuality, health maintenance, and back to normal expectations of family, friends and colleagues.

The group begins Wednesday March 26 from noon to 2:00 pm, in Mercy Hospital's Breast Health Resource Center. Plan to bring a bag lunch; beverages will be available. To register, or for more information, call 879-3790.

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Circle of Hope MCC of Portland, ME
4:00 pm Saturday,
Immanuel Baptist, 156 High Street
FMI: 207.775-6684 ext #32

Interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Every person is welcomed! Please join us!



MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Maine Equity Fund Request for Proposals

What is the Maine Equity Fund?

The Maine Equity Fund is a new fund established in the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) in 1996 with a two-year matching grant from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. The purpose of the Fund is to promote greater understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) issues in Maine and in so doing address issues of diversity, inclusiveness and acceptance of differences. The Fund will distribute up to \$60,000 per year in 1997 and 1998 to projects and organizations that address these issues.

The Maine Community Foundation is one of 16 community foundations nationwide selected to participate in this funding initiative. To establish priorities for the Maine Equity Fund, MCF convened an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the Foundation, the GLBT community in Maine and the community at large. Members represent different age groups, geographic location, perspectives, and professional experience. With the help of a consultant, the committee conducted a needs assessment of the GLBT community and GLBT service providers. (See attached).

What are the Funding Priorities of the Equity Fund?

- *Guaranteeing civil rights for GLBT people and protection against violence
- *Strengthening community education to reduce oppression and counter anti-GLBT fear
- *Broadening recognition of, and rights for, GLBT families
- *Increasing education to improve the quality GLBT health care
- *Increasing cultural, social, recreational activities for diverse GLBT communities
- *Building the capacity of GLBT community organizations
- *Enhancing GLBT community organizing and coalition-building
- *Increased services for GLBT youth

The Maine Equity Fund is seeking proposals that address these priority concerns in ways that:

- *build the capacity of GLBT and related organizations to more effectively address the needs of their own community, partner with other minority organizations, and/or build stronger bridges with mainstream community institutions such as schools, health care facilities, police, media etc.
- *lead to long term systemic change.

What Types of Support will the Maine Equity Fund Provide?

- *Grants: for operating or project support that addresses a priority need listed above; or
- *Technical assistance: a portion of the funds will be allocated for technical assistance to build the capacity of GLBT and other organizations that are addressing a priority need.

Grants for operating or project support will be in the range of \$1,000 - 8,000. Technical assistance grants of under \$1,000 will support workshops, trainings and professional development opportunities in such areas as fundraising, strategic planning etc.

Grants will be made for one year or less but you may apply for support in each year.

To Receive Funds, Organizations Must Meet the Following Criteria:

- *be Maine based
- *be a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization or have a fiscal sponsor that is tax exempt, or be an emerging group which has been organized for a specific project that is charitable in purpose
- *involve the constituency served in both leadership and membership
- *have a clear mission statement or a plan to create one
- *must not involve lobbying or political activity as defined by IRS tax exemption regulations
- *address a priority need

Note: HIV/AIDS related services and projects will not be supported through this initiative but may apply for funds through the Maine Community AIDS Partnership

Can only GLBT Organizations Apply?

No. Any organization proposing to meet a priority need of the Maine Equity Fund may apply. To meet our purpose of strengthening coalitions and promoting a greater understanding of diversity, inclusiveness and acceptance of differences, organizations serving other minority communities are encouraged to apply.

When to Apply?

Applications are due in the Maine Community Foundation office in Ellsworth by April 1, 1997 and should be postmarked no later than this date. Awards will be announced in late May.

How to Apply

Applications should be sent to the Maine Equity Fund, Maine Community Foundation, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, Maine 04609. Each application should include:

- 1) a completed Request for Information form
- 2) a 2-4 page letter signed by the executive director or chair of the Board that explains the following:
 - *amount requested
 - *the history and purpose of your organization or collaborative (include geographic area and population served)
 - *the opportunity, need, problem or issue that your proposed program addresses and how it relates to the priorities of the Maine Equity Fund
 - *your goals for the proposed program and the specific strategies and activities you will use to achieve your goals
 - *the challenges or barriers that your proposed project will face and how you plan to address these challenges
 - *how your project will lead to sustainable change
 - *if you are applying for technical assistance, how the assistance requested will help increase the capacity of your organization and/or community served.
 - *how constituents will be involved in program development and implementation
- 3) an income and expense budget for your project. The project budget should include the amount raised or expected from other sources and a narrative explanation of your current fundraising activities and plan to fund the project in the future (if applicable).
- 4) if this is a collaborative project, letters of understanding from other participating groups or organizations.
- 5) a copy of your organization's 501(c)(3) IRS letter or a copy of your fiscal sponsor's 501(c)(3) letter and a copy of their agreement to accept funds on your organization's behalf.

Please mail, not fax, a hard copy of your proposal to the Foundation and limit your application to the materials requested above.

If you have any questions, please contact Marion Kane at the Maine Community Foundation office (667-9735).

Community Pride Reporter

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by **Daralyn S.
Maxwell**

In the process of sorting out all of the issues that become compelling to me, one

aspect makes itself felt at every encounter, offering refuge while reminding me of the very tenuous nature of life. Self-confidence takes a holiday at every opportunity. So, what is this amazing event that reduces me to a near puddle? Meeting new people.

I feel like the new girl on the playground every time I go into a new social situation. All of the other girls check me out, trying to figure if I am cool enough to hang with them; whether I dress like them, or whether I can be made to "fit the mold". The thing that makes this so personally overwhelming is that I am now a 44 year old "teen-age" girl.

Having been on hormones for well over a year now, things have happened to my body that I was not raised to be prepared for. There are changes in my

perceptions, and base emotional makeup that need to be accepted and resolved. Add to that the fact that my entire social structure is being torn down to the basement rebuilt one extended brick at a time. It makes for a very challenging day.

I have the privilege of having made some very good friends over the last year or so; women willing to nurture and tend my soul so that it will flower in a positive direction, validating my womanhood even before it is completely solidified. They make my recess time on the playground easier to bear; they feed and sustain my need for support. But most of all, when I am wrong they don't take their toys and leave me alone; they sit me down and explain exactly how the game is played.

I know that these same women have, on occasion, shaken their heads in amazement at some of the silly things that I do or say. At times they have even taken me to task for them, reminding me that life on the playground can be lonely; I need to pay attention more. Fortu-

nately, as time goes on it seems to take fewer reminders; there is more positive reinforcement, and the level of validation (which is so important to anyone who aspires to join a group) goes up as I take my place, slowly, in the company of women.

It is also a struggle at times adapting to a whole new set of rules; finding out where the boundaries are; learning how to find your place, and keep your space. It is hard, sometimes, to see things only through new eyes, and knowing that you have traded one comfortable set of rules for another, alien, set.

Then again, as with anything else in life worth having, the struggle has a purpose. In my case it is like a homecoming; joining the community that I was denied access to for so long through a biological quirk of nature. It looks to be a pretty nice place to be.

Dal Maxwell practices her playground etiquette in Portland, Maine. Comments can be sent to her through CPR, or she can be e-mailed at dalmax@ime.net.

Position Paper on the Defense of Marriage Act

The following is an open letter to Maine legislators sent by Jean Vermette, Director of Maine Gender Resource and Support Services (McGrESS)

Dear Legislator,

The Maine Gender Resource and Support Service (McGrESS) is a volunteer organization providing education, information, counseling and referrals to Maine's transsexual and transgendered communities, and education and consultation to Maine's helping professionals, educators, public servants, businesses and general public.

We understand that Maine's version of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) will be presented to you during this session in an attempt to prevent same-sex marriages.

Because every law which is passed creates a number of unintended consequences... many of them undesirable... we feel it is our duty to bring to the attention of Maine's legislators at least one of the unexpected consequences which the passage of DOMA could well create, not only for members of the community we represent, but also for other citizens of Maine as well.

There are two legal considerations at work in Maine which can occasionally combine to create a very special set of circumstances for our transsexual population (for those whose innate nature requires them to undergo a sex change).

The first consideration is the fact that once an individual has completed sexual reassignment surgery he or she may present evidence of the completed sex change to the appropriate governmental bodies and have the sex designation on his/her vital records changed to reflect the new reality. At that point,

the person is considered to be of the new sex and obtains all of the privileges, responsibilities and restrictions of that sex. For example, a "new man" could then legally marry a woman, but could not legally marry a man. A "new woman" could legally marry a man, but could not legally marry a woman.

The second consideration is the fact that any marriage which meets all of the state-mandated legal requirements at the time of its creation remains a legally valid marriage until the married persons decide to dissolve it. Neither incapacitating accident, nor personal changes, nor financial gain or setback, nor changes in life-style, nor criminal conduct, nor any other life situation allows the state to unilaterally step in and dissolve a legally valid marriage. Only the couple can request and move to do so.

This long-established principle serves the very considerable interests of the state in seeing that the health, welfare, and general care of its children, spouses, and other dependents are maintained by those who have agreed (by marriage) to be responsible for them. For the state to mandate the dissolution of a valid marriage against the will of the parties would bring into play a host of other legal questions and regulations which could not only cost the state large sums of money, but which would also act directly against its intent to encourage citizen responsibility and its need to cultivate respect for the law.

In some cases, one of the partners in a legal, valid marriage may move to undergo a sex change. Usually, this results in one or both parties choosing to dissolve the marriage, and the law correctly allows the divorce to proceed. However, occasionally, and the numbers

we are talking about are very small, the married partners may decide that dissolving the marriage is neither necessary nor desirable and that they would prefer to remain married even after sex change surgery has been completed.

The question for the state, and for you as one of its legislators, is whether the state's DOMA can be crafted in such a way that the integrity of these few state-recognized marriages can be maintained. If the state will not maintain the integrity of those unions it has previously recognized, if indeed it will mandate their involuntary dissolution, then how will you as a legislator be able to face your constituents and reassure them that the precedent that you have set in place will not be built upon by a future legislature to invalidate their own marriages at the behest of some other special interest group.

McGrESS believes that the passage of DOMA would not accomplish any constructive purpose and would set a very dangerous precedent that would allow for the future intrusion of the state into all of its citizens married lives. We urge you to move slowly when considering the state DOMA for passage, to properly investigate the potential for unintended results, and to not be swayed too quickly or too completely by ill-considered public opinion. It is our belief that as a legislator you owe it to your constituents not only to reflect their momentary wishes, but also to use your greater social awareness to see that, by their wishes, they do not cause themselves harm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jean Vermette Director, McGrESS
PO Box 1894 Bangor, Maine 04402-1894

The **Community Pride Reporter** is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as **Community Pride Reporter** does its part to "Color ME Green."

Homophobia? or just bad business

by David Swander

Being busy professionals, we never found time to use the gift certificate a friend had given us two years ago for the hot tubs. Since there was no expiration date on the certificate, we didn't force a day to go into our schedules. So, we decided to make some time on Valentine's Day evening to go, and made reservations. We rushed home from our respective jobs, fed the animals and drove furiously to the Old Port so we would have time for dinner prior to our 6:30 appointment time. Since buying a house in December, this was to be our first dinner out (have to be frugal with a new house, you know) and we were somewhat disappointed that we had to rush through dinner and couldn't enjoy this treat.

We arrived at The Portland Hot Tubs only to find out from the owner that he would not honor our gift certificate! He said they had just bought the business and although there was no expiration date, it was no good. The rationale he used was that he started a new business and had nothing to do with the

previous business. A businessman in the lobby said he thought this was illegal and tried to help us convince the owner to let us use it. Of course, it seemed unusual that the new business would keep the same logo and phone numbers of the previous owners if they had nothing to do with the old business! So, the owner offered us \$10.00 for our \$25.00 gift certificate, but still claimed no responsibility towards the gift certificate.

After some discussion with the owner about the principle of the matter, his wife started yelling at us and made some comments about us being cheap. "I'm sorry," I said, "we were given a valid gift certificate to try the hot tubs by someone who had obviously enjoyed them. Had we been able to use it, we could have told all our friends what a romantic time we had and recommend it to others. Instead, you not only tell me that you must ruin our Valentine's Day plans and risk bad word of mouth (which is ten times worse than any good advertising could fix), but you also feel the need to yell at us and call us names." Everyone watching this display was

embarrassed for us.

How much easier it would have been to let us use our valid gift certificate than to argue with us for 20 minutes, upset the guests waiting in the lobby, risk bad publicity and loss of business. So this letter is to let the community know that if they have a gift certificate with no expiration date to The Portland Hot Tubs, tough luck! Your money has just gone down the drain; right alongside our romantic Valentine's evening for two!

The Attorney-General's office suggested I try to find others who have been denied service by the new owners and to track down the previous owners (Douglas and Jeanne Goldsmith), which I have yet to be able to do. Any assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I am sure that there are many more people like us who have been cheated. Of course, one thing we won't know for sure is if we were denied using the gift certificate because we were two men. I never am conscious of homophobia, since it is usually covert, but still in the back of my mind I wonder.

Back To Basics

By John D'Emilio Director NGLTF Policy Institute

The military ban . . . the freedom to marry . . . the Rainbow curriculum . . . workplace partnership benefits . . .

As our movement grows stronger, as more of us come out earlier and stay out for decades, our vision of equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people expands. We can see farther than we could a generation ago, and we expect more. The cutting-edge issues that seem to beckon us toward new frontiers are the ones that grab our attention and our energy.

Viewed from that perspective, what could be less interesting or more tired than sodomy law repeal? The police, after all, are not regularly barging into our bedrooms and leading us away in handcuffs. Aren't the remaining sodomy laws merely relics of a distant past, technically enforceable but meaningless in practical terms?

Don't kid yourself. Even if not a one of us ever again got arrested for violating the sodomy statutes, they would weigh like a ton of bricks on our shoulders. Getting rid of them has to be a top priority.

The movement for sodomy law repeal got started in the 1950s. The impulse came as much from a legal profession interested in modernizing the penal code by eliminating "victimless" crimes as it did from a gay and lesbian movement still in its infancy. In 1961, eight years before the Stonewall Rebellion, Illinois became the first state to repeal. A couple of other states did so in the 1960s; the repeal movement accelerated in the 1970s; and then it slowed considerably in the 1980s. Today, twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia are "free" states without sodomy laws; the remaining twenty-one states still criminalize all homosexual sex.

The pattern of repeal is interesting.

In the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s, virtually all of the repeals came through a rewriting of a state's entire penal code. In other words, sodomy law reform was hidden beneath an avalanche of changes in the criminal law and was not the focus of public controversy. To my knowledge, only two states repealed the law as a freestanding measure after full legislative debate. As the extremist right got organized in the 1980s, it became harder to repeal these statutes legislatively. Then, in 1986, in the infamous case of *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of sodomy statutes. Since then, sodomy laws have fallen not through legislative repeal but because energetic queer lawyers have challenged them based on the provisions of state constitutions.

Even though the remaining laws are not often enforced, they function as an excuse for other oppressive measures. Here are some recent examples: ~ Judges in custody cases, as with Sharon Bottoms in Virginia, use the criminality of homosexual behavior as the basis for declaring a mother or father unfit. ~ at George Mason University last fall, a crusading member of the governing board forced the elimination of a line item in the budget to fund a resource center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. The reason? The state's sodomy law. ~ in Arizona this January, a legislator introduced a bill to ban the use of school facilities by any group that supports illegal activity. His target: gay, lesbian, and bisexual student groups. His rationale: the state sodomy statute. ~ for years, the criminality of homosexual acts has restricted the ability of AIDS activists to use public monies for effective AIDS educational efforts.

Whether or not a state has a sodomy law also seems to affect how far it goes in other areas of concern to us. For instance, one out of five "free" states

include sexual orientation in their civil rights statutes, but only one out of seven sodomy states do. One out of five free states have executive orders from the governor banning sexual orientation discrimination, but only one out of ten sodomy states do. Almost half of the free states punish hate crimes based on sexual orientation in contrast to only one-quarter of the sodomy states. And, the contrast is most dramatic in the area of child custody. The National Center for Lesbian Rights found courts supportive of granting us custody rights in more than one out of four free states in comparison to only one out of twenty sodomy states.

The existence of a sodomy law in a state thus tends to be a good marker of a hostile climate. It also serves as a barrier making other kinds of change more difficult to achieve. Until we eliminate them entirely, we run the very real risk of a right-wing effort to recriminalize homosexual acts in today's free states. And, as long as these laws exist anywhere in the United States, the stigma of criminality remains heavy in our culture, hanging like an albatross around our necks.

Dr. D'Emilio is a noted historian and author. His works include *"Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics and the University"* (Routledge, 1992), *"Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970"* (University of Chicago Press, 1983), and he is the co-author of *"Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America"* (Harper and Row, 1988). He is currently working on a biography of the late Bayard Rustin. D'Emilio's monthly column is available the last week of each month. Please publish or distribute this piece. Photos of Dr. D'Emilio are available by contacting Tracey Conaty at 202/332-6483 x3303.

Community Pride Reporter

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Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumptions should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. All submissions are subject to editing. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to the publishing editor.

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The Community Pride Reporter is published during the first two business days of the month.

All submissions must be in by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

Community Pride Resources

ML/GPA

a state-wide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P-FLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord

an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou. FMI write NLN, PO Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. The Phoneline is staffed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or 1-800-468-2088

The Matlovich Society

an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207-761-4380.

National Association of Social Workers, ME.

Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207-622-7592.

Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:

Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General at 626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights: (CAGLR).

New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line 603-224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association

A state-wide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207-775-0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights

Trains and deploys volunteers state-wide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207-879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings;

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance). FMI call 603-472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle). FMI call 603-772-5196.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI call 603-968-7254 or 603-786-9812.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI call 207-766-5158 or 207-774-3441.

Brunswick/Bath: Meets 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Wed. FMI call 207-729-0519.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-783-9789.

Women's Center

Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn). Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm. FMI call 207-338-5702

NA: Just for Today

meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

Out and About

a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or call 603-430-5418.

Out Among Friends

Lesbian social/discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. \$1 donation. FMI call 207-879-1037.

Am Chofshi

A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call 207-883-6004.

Exeter Congregational Church

United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH has adopted an Open and Affirming Statement & welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson & Jane Geffen Henderson. FMI call Ingrid at 603-772-6221.

Lesbian/Gay Catholics

The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for l/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Third Sunday of every month at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI call Rosemary or Janet: 207-646-2820 or Laurie: 207-878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society

an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI call 207-773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope

A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group

Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 207-622-1888 or 207-622-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group

1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI call Larry Godfrey at 207-594-2957.

Support Group—Penobscot & Surrounding Counties

For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207-990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

Q-Squad

Support group for lesbian, gays, bi's & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM

Farmington. FMI call and leave message at 207-778-7380.

TransSupport

Support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207-945-3092.

Gender Talk North

Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431. 603-924-8828.

Trans Counseling

Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603-357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network

Meets to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality & work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104.

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS)

Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multi-partner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 207-773-6132 FMI.

Prisoners of Gender

(Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 207-581-1425.

Dover, NH

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI call 603-743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn

A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group

This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: call 207-947-5337.

S.N.A.P.

Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI call 207-774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)

Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service

Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write MeGRESS, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call 207-945-3092.

All Maine Transgender

Group Support for all Crossdressers, Transvestites, Transgenders, Transexuals. All inclusive group, gay, lesbian, bi, straight. Confidential and discreet, Bangor meeting place. February meetings are on the 7th and the 28th. Call 207-947-1686 for time and place; or FMI write AMT P.O. Box 145 Brewer, ME 04412.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group

For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group

Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

Maine AIDs Alliance

Maine AIDS Alliance: 39 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-621-2924. Fax: 207-622-2662.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 207-786-4697.

AIDS Lodging House: 142 High Street Suite 609, Portland, ME 04101. Call 207-773-7165.

Camp Chrystal: PO Box 990, Belfast, Maine 04915. Call 207-3338-5089.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: PO Box 457, Rumford, ME 04276 Call 207-364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Education: PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055.

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 207-626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 207-667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 207-990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Service: PO

Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Call 207-725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 207-774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271. Call 207-743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 207-774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support: 142 High St., Room 330, Portland, ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS. E-mail paws@ime.net. Home page: http://www.ime.net/PAWS/

The AIDS Project (TAP): PO Box 5305, Portland, ME 04101. Web page - www.neis.net/aidsproject. E-mail - aidsproj@neis.net Call 207-774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 207-338-1427.

Medical Support

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207-874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY

available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207-773-6658.

Teen Life Center

Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High School. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 207-874-8784. For other STD services: 207-874-8446.

Coping with Caregiving

Provides support for those caring for a disabled or chronically/terminally ill person. Group meets on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at noon at Mercy Hospital Board Room, sixth floor. FMI call 207-879-3477.

Breast self-exam classes

The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital is offering free self-exam classes to teach women how to perform breast self-exams, what to look for, what a lump might feel like, and what to do if you find something that doesn't seem right. Classes are on the 3rd Thursday of the month on the 5th floor. FMI, or to register, call 207-879-3791

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT

Bangor: Fridays 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. FMI call 207-990-3626.

Central Maine: Weekly confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call First Call at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-

HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

Waldo-Knox: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to Concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm

at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE

A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI call COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL

Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207-775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Wednesdays: Drop-in discussion group for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm. TAP, 142 High Street Suite 632, Portland, ME 04101.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 207-774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by North-

ern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Aroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207-768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 207-783-7301.

Augusta: Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207-626-3435.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207-990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 207-774-6877.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County

Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Kennebunk: Drop-in discussion group every Tuesday for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men at TAP Office, Lafayette Center, downtown Kennebunk. FMI call Gerry at 207-774-6877.

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Expectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Derry area: Support group open to anyone infected with AIDS/HIV. Hosted by the Ecumenical AIDS Task Force, at St. Thomas Aquinas. FMI or reservations, call Jane Dwyer at 603-432-7530.

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Anderson at 603-756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30

pm. For details call Schultz, 603-357-5270.

Lebanon/Hanover: ACoRN offers support groups, case management, community referrals and HIV prevention programs for people in the Upper Valley. FMI call John or Mark at 800-816-2220.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603-357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1-800-368-4357.

Nashua area: Two weekly self-help groups for those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. For times, dates and locations, call 603-595-8464.

N.H. Seacoast "Connections" support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. "Connections" meets every month on second Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exeter Congregational Church 21 Front St. Exeter, NH. Discussions, information sharing and support are offered in a friendly and private atmosphere. FMI 603-772-6221, or 603-436-8963.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario 603-924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Winnepesaukee Region: HIV/AIDS support group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at Lakes Region General Hospital. FMI call Wayne at 603-524-3211 ext 3900.

Phone Support By Region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine: Staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. Staffed & trained, peer youth counselors. Lines are open Sunday thru Thursday 7-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 pm to midnight. Confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-347-TEEN

HIV-AIDS Prevention Project: Staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 - 9 pm. Call 207-498-2088 or (Maine) 800-468-2088

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30

pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. 774-TALK.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F 207-863-2728. FAX 207-863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.

*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon

*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally &

Gene

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle

*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

Waldoboro: Sue - 832-5859

CONTACTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603-623-6023

New Hampshire: Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony

an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus

a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League

meets on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. FMI call 775-3420.

Online/Internet

The Maine GayNet Mail List

Share your ideas and opinions with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet"

The Maine GayNet Home Page

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. Point your WEB Browser to: <http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine>. FMI e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com.

San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Tourism Guide

An online merchant-sponsored Internet website geared to gay and lesbian travellers to the San Francisco area. It is compatible with most mainstream web browsers. Address: www.gaysf.com

Social Groups

MAINE

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI call Jim 761-2059 or John 828-4896.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call 207-288-2502 and leave a message.

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI call Kathy 207-688-4737 or 207-725-0179.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207-787-2379 or 207-773-5083.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ALMA: Active Lesbians of the Monadnock

Area (formerly the Monadnock Area Women) meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. FMI call 603-363-4961.

Dartmouth Women's Meeting: Meets every Monday at 9 pm at the Women's Resource Center, Dartmouth College. FMI call 603-646-3636.

LINC: Lesbians Inviting New Connections. A network serving women in New England. FMI call Pauli at 603-668-9245.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207-925-1034.

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Womem Meeting Women: Lesbian social/support group meeting monthly at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on the 2nd Saturday of the every month from 2:30 - 6 pm. FMI call Dianne at 603-881-4268, or by e-mail DBalbat@aol.com.

March Calendar of Events

February 27 - March 16

Village Repertory Company presents "Tiny Alice" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland, ME. FMI (207)774-1376

March 1, 2, 8, 9 - 2 PM

Storyteller David Neufeld presents "Fire Light Tales" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-5103

March 2 - March 23

"Iphigenia and Other Daughters" at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, ME. FMI (207)774-0465

March 7 - March 16

"Truth Be Known" presented by Mad Horse Children's Theater. Tickets \$6.00. FMI or reservations (207)797-3338

March 20 - April 6

"Pushing Through" at Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland ME. FMI (207)775-5103

March 20 - March 22

Daffodil Days, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. To volunteer or to order flowers, call (800)464-3102.

March 21 - 23

GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network) National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. FMI (212)727-0254.

March 21 - 23

Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance "New Poems" workshop at MWPA office, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME. Cost is \$95 or \$75 for members. FMI (207)729-6333

March 31 - April 14

6:30 - 8:30 PM - "Sharing As Sisters," this psycho-educational group on HIV and AIDS will explore sexual health and needs as we live in the age of HIV and STD, at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

Monday March 3

7:00 - 8:30 PM "Herbal Support for the Menopausal Years" at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

Tuesday March 4

6:30 - 8:30 PM - Tax Information Night at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

Wednesday March 5

6:30 - 8:30 PM "Women's Writing and Women's Wisdom for Vintage Women (50+)" at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. (603)431-1669.

Thursday March 6

6:30 - 8:30 PM - A Midwife's Journey: 2 Decades of Birth Stories at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

Friday March 7

5:30 - 8 PM - Celebration and Good-Bye Party for Ruth Rosenhek, Director of Women's Health Consortium. The Women's City Club, 375 Middle St., Portsmouth NH.

8:30 to noon - Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice's Well Child Clinic at South Portland Church of the Nazarene, 525 Highland Ave., South Portland ME. By appointment only. Fee is \$2.00. FMI (207)780-8624.

Saturday March 8

9 AM -noon - Free women's health exams at Women's Health Consortium, Portsmouth NH. For appointment (603)431-1669

6PM - Potluck dinner, followed by videos, including "Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle". Norwich VT. An Amelia's Event. FMI Beth (802)649-5297.

2 PM - Third Annual Snowshoe Games and Potluck Supper in Rumney NH with Lakes and Mountains Connections women. FMI (603)786-2510.

8 PM - Alpine Grove, Hollis NH. Women Meeting Women Dance. FMI (603)881-4268

Monday March 10

7:15PM - Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, along with American Cancer Society - Guidance in Grieving at Methodist Church, Elm St., South Portland, ME. FMI (207)780-8624.

RBPA (Rainbow Business and Professional Association) networking meeting. FMI (207)775-0015

Tuesday March 11

7 to 8:30 PM - "Connections," a support group for caregivers, parents, friends and families—all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS—holds its monthly meeting at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Exeter NH. Confidentiality is assured. FMI (603)772-6221 or (603)436-8963.

Wednesday March 12

6:30 - 8:30 PM - How Not To Become a Victim To Your Automobile at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

1:30 PM - Augusta Civic Center—public Hearing on Carolyn Crosby's bill LD 1017 "An Act to Protect Traditional Marriage and Prohibit Same Sex Marriages." FMI (800)55MLGPA

Thursday March 13

7:30 - 9PM - Matlovich Society presents "It's Elementary," a feature-length documentary which challenges the censorship of the topic of homosexuality in school curricula. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME.

10 AM - 3 PM - Women's Resource Fair at USM Campus Center (Portland Campus)

7 PM - Body Awareness for Women at InTouch, 278 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669

6:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord business meeting at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 Main St., Caribou ME. FMI (207)498-2088 or (800)468-2088.

Friday March 14

8 PM - Maine Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert at Portland High School. Tickets from chorus members or at Drop Me a Line, Amadeus Music or Bookland-Mill Creek. FMI (207)772-8640

Saturday March 15

7 PM - Women's Coffeehouse featuring "Diva Brazilia," a women's ensemble performing world music at Belfast Free Library, High Street, Belfast ME. Benefitting the Women's Center in Belfast. Event is women only. \$6.00 donation. Refreshments available. FMI (207)338-5702

8 PM - Maine Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert at Portland High School. Tickets from chorus members or at Drop Me a Line, Amadeus Music or Bookland-Mill Creek. FMI (207)772-8640

Tuesday March 18

1:00 to 4:00 PM - Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice Adult Immunization Clinic/Health Screening Clinic for Adults at 50 Foden Rd., South Portland, ME. Appointment required. FMI (207)780-8624.

Thursday March 20

7:30 - 9 PM - Self-Esteem Enhancement at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

Saturday March 22

9 AM - noon - Free women's health exams at Women's Health Consortium, Portsmouth NH. For appointment (603)431-1669

6PM - AIDS Benefit to Celebrate Life—"mocktails" by the pool, buffet dinner, live entertainment, art auction. Caribou Inn and Convention Center. Tickets \$5 or \$45/2. FMI (207)493-4430 or (800)432-7881

11 AM - 4 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance "Writing for Publication" workshop at the Thomas A. Hill House, 159 Union St., Bangor, ME. Cost is \$65 or \$45 for members. FMI (207)729-6333

Saturday March 22

1 to 4 PM - Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance "Writing for the Older Child" workshop at Lithgow Library, Winthrop St., Augusta ME. Cost is \$55 or \$45 for members. FMI (207)729-6333

Monday March 24

6:00 - 9:00 PM - Sexual assault advocacy training program begins—runs for 6 weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Sponsored by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. FMI (800)313-9900

Wednesday March 26

noon to 2 PM - Transition Support Group (for women who have recently completely breast cancer treatment) begins at Mercy Hospital's Breast Health Resource Center. Bring a bag lunch; beverages available. To register or for more information call (207)879-3790

Thursday March 27

7:30 - 9PM - Matlovich Society presents "Bea Gates," author of "The Wild Good," a collection of photographs and writings about lesbian love. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland ME.

6:30 - 9 PM - Mindfulness Space Living at Women's Health Consortium, 379 State St., Portsmouth NH. FMI (603)431-1669.

GLBT & Allies Night at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre—Another Summer. Tickets/reservations and FMI (800)639-7650 or (603)433-4472.

Saturday March 29

7:30 PM - Dance Extrordinaire at Gorham High School Auditorium, 41 Morrill Ave. Gorham ME. \$5 with reservations, \$6 at the door. Sponsored by The Studio for the Living Arts, Gray. FMI (207)657-5386.

Tuesday April 8

1:30 PM - Public Hearing at Augusta Civic Center—testimony on experiences with discrimination—for bill LD 1116 "An Act to Prevent Discrimination." FMI Gaynet and MLGPA's web page at <http://firegirl.com/mlgpa>

May 9 - 11

Gay Men Together week-end retreat, building community, workshops, fun, and laughter, learning from other gay men in a supportive space. At Pilgrim Lodge in Lichtfield. FMI (207)499-0166. This not-for-profit group is planning two retreats per year.

Meetings of Maine Speakout Project County chapters: All Welcome !

AROOSTOOK: TUESDAY, 3/25, 7 pm Northern Lambda Nord, Caribou FMI: Call Deb Madore @ 768-3056

HANCOCK: THURSDAY, 3/13, 7-9 pm, Unitarian Church, Ellsworth FMI: Call Dotty Kay Stillman @ 244-9053

KNOX: SUNDAY, 3/16, 3-5 pm, UU Church, Rockland FMI: Call Lucie Bauer @ 236-4734

PENOBSCOT: WEDNESDAY, 3/12, 6-7:30 pm, St. Michael's Center, Bangor FMI: Call Janet May @ 862-5907

YORK: THURSDAY, 3/27, 5:30 Potluck, UU Church, Kennebunk FMI: Call Sue Gesing @ 967-3420 or Bob Wuerthner @ 985-6846

NEXT SPEAKOUT TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS: Saturday, April 12th, 9-5, Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn. To register, send \$10 to MSOP, 123 Congress Street #1, Portland 04101. FMI: 879-0480.

Horseshoes in the Park

Horseshoes in the Park, a new women's club, is starting in April. No experience is necessary,

If you've ever wanted to play or learn to play horseshoes or play and have found it difficult to find other women who play, join us.

This club is about having fun and socializing with other women. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday April 2nd from 6:30-8pm at Deering Oaks Park in Portland.

Enter Deering Oaks from the Deering Ave. side and the horseshoe pits will be directly on the left after the baseball diamond, in front of the Volleyball court.

Bring your horseshoes if you have them, all horseshoes welcome whether regulation or not. If you don't have any horseshoes, don't worry some will be provided for you. FMI call (207)774-2403 and leave a message, someone will return your call asap.

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Personals

Searching for real friend: TSF- 32, long red hair, thin, with brown eyes that sparkle and I'm a pretty smart writer and filmmaker, iso F, 29-50 with Individuality, Goals and Desires who is not afraid to Dream. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 101; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

47 yo f, iso, f for long term relationship. I am 5' 2" and thin, brown hair and blue/green eyes. I am Honest and sincere with likes in Music, movies and long walks. I am searching for a woman with similar interests. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 105; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

22 YO male: 5' 7", slender, brown/brown, out college student, likes dancing poetry, travel, and outdoors ISO male 20-27 who is out, cultured, into kissing, eroticism, and not into bar scenes. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 103; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

GWM 47 who enjoys cross-dressing and exploring feminine side. ISO penpal/friend for moral support & guidance thru learning experiences. I'm unable to read or write very well, cassette tapes are appreciated. Respond: Community Pride Reporter PSN 105; PO Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

Female 24, red hair, blue eyes, out college student likes nature, reading, animals, movies, writing ISO female 24-35 who is independant, intelligent, and fun. Must be out. Write: Community Pride Reporter PSN 104; P.O. Box 178; Saco, ME 04072.

With Respect, a crone High Priestess of the Goddess within eclectic traditions of Wicca, Hinduism, Huna, metaphysics, Human Beings, bards and more, seeks a trainee/Priestess/Maiden/assistant/apprentice... whatever you wish to call yourself. Interested? Please call Alaina: 207/490-0589

Support

USM students G.L.B.T.Q. who wish to connect with others can contact Laurie @ 874-3232 or Julie @ 874-3301 or Paul @ 874-3255 for support, help or friendships.

Teen AIDS Line

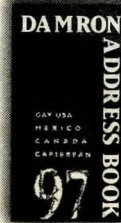
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Please make checks payable to: Community Pride Reporter & mail to P.O. Box 178, Saco, ME 04072. *We acknowledge the varying degrees to which members of our community are out, and we respect their choice, if printing a return address is ever a problem, please let us know.

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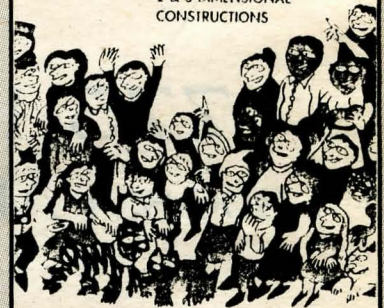
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